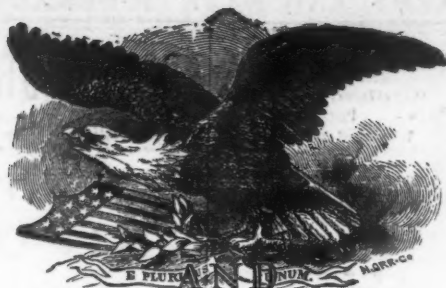


ARMY



NAVY

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AND VOLUNTEER
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VOLUME XX—NUMBER 21
WHOLE NUMBER 749.

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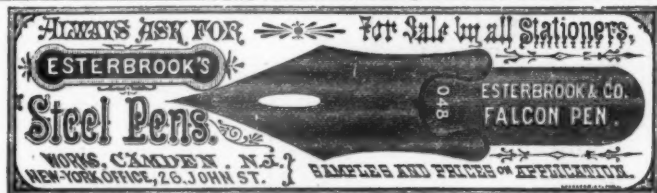
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ABSTRACT OF IMPORTANT ORDERS.

G. O. 117, H. Q. A., Dec. 20, 1877.

I. By direction of the Secretary of War, a Board to consist of
Surg. C. Page, U. S. A.; Major J. P. Hawkins, Commissary of
Subsistence, and Capt. F. Meares, 9th Infantry, is appointed to
meet at Omaha, Neb., Jan. 24, 1878, or as soon thereafter as prac-
ticable, to make experiments in Army Cooking, and prepare a
manual for the use of Army cooks. The junior member will
record the proceedings.

II. Officers of the Army are invited to forward to the Board,
in writing, such information and suggestions on the subject of
Army cooking as they may desire to present for its considera-
tion, and the Subsistence Department is authorized to expend
such quantities of Subsistence supplies as may be necessary for
the Board in the performance of the duty assigned it.

G. O. 118, H. Q. A., Dec. 20, 1877.

By direction of the Secretary of War, there will be allowed for
enlisted men in barracks plain, substantial, wooden chairs, at the
rate of not exceeding one for each non-commissioned officer
above the rank of Corporal, and six for every twelve enlisted
men of all other grades. The chairs will be supplied by the
Quartermaster's Department, and will be accounted for as other
barrack furniture.
The Quartermaster-General will take measures for procuring the
necessary supply.

G. O. 119, H. Q. A., Dec. 21, 1877.

The following orders have been received from the
Secretary of War:

I. When by report of the Second Comptroller of the Treasury,
or of any Bureau of the War Department, it is ascertained that
an officer of the Army has been overpaid, or is indebted to the
United States for money, property or supplies, or has failed prop-
erly to account for the same, the Paymaster-General will notify
the officer of the charge.

If refundment or satisfactory explanation be not made within
a reasonable time, the Paymaster-General will, on the order of
the Secretary of War, give notice of the stoppage of the officer's
pay until the overpayment or indebtedness be satisfied.

Should the officer in his explanation appeal to the Secretary
of War, the Paymaster-General will submit the case for decision

before enforcement of the stoppage. (See Par. 1041, Regulations
of 1862.)

II. The notice of stoppage of officers' pay will take the form
of a monthly circular to Paymasters, advising them of stoppages
in force at its date. This circular will be submitted to the
Secretary of War for his approval prior to publication.

When an officer's name is borne upon this circular, no pay-
ment of salary will be made to him which is not in accordance
with the stoppage entry in the case. Paymasters disregarding
this requirement in any case will be held liable for the amount
of the stoppage.

G. O. 121, H. Q. A., Dec. 23, 1877.

The following order of the President, received
through the Secretary of War, is promulgated for the
government of all concerned:

Article X, Par. 96, of the Regulations of the U. S.
Military Academy, is hereby amended, as follows:

In place of the forage cap at present in use the
"White India helmet" will be substituted as the uni-
form fatigue hat for Cadets, to be worn during the
summer months.

Description: To weigh seven and one-quarter ounces; the
helmet body to be of cork, stiffened with wire shells, made
water-proof, and covered with a white unsulphured cloth, made
in six sections and double stitched at seams; cloth to be ironed
to body so as to adhere to every portion. Visor to be lined with
green material, shellaced to body; the binding of visor to be of
enameled leather. The ventilator to have three holes on top
button, so that it may be reversed in windy or cool weather,
when riding, or at any time when there is too much draught on
the head.

G. F. O. 8, DEPT. COLUMBIA, Dec. 1, 1877.

The campaign against the hostile Nez Percés is
ended and the last company of the forces operating
against them has at this date reached its station. The
Commanding General considers this a fitting time to
express to all who served under his command—officers
and soldiers of the Army, volunteers, scouts, and other
citizens, who rendered in various capacities willing
and valuable aid as occasion demanded, his appreciation
of their services and the assurance that they have
won his high regard and warm esteem. From the 14th
of June to the 5th of October the pursuit was continu-
ous—not a day passed that some part of the force was
not marching, crossing torrents, climbing mountains
or threading their rocky defiles. From the Snake and
Salmon Rivers in Northeastern Idaho, across the Con-
tinent, to within a day's march of the "British Line,"
you pursued a foe, at first cruel, arrogant, and boastful;
but after the successful battle of the Clearwater,
intent only on escaping and eluding your attack, and
this they were enabled to do with the fresh animals
stolen from the friendly Indians and from the settle-
ments along their line of flight through Idaho, Mon-
tana, Wyoming, and Dakota. Through heat and cold,
at times in ragged and insufficient clothing and with-
out proper food, by marches of extraordinary length,
often pressed in the hope of bringing the enemy to bay
to the limits of human and animal endurance, you fol-
lowed the trail until Joseph and his people were pris-
oners of war. To the officers of the Adjutant-
General's and Supply Departments at the Hdqrs in
Portland and in the field, the Commanding General
expresses his thanks for the zeal and ability which char-
acterized the performance of their important duties.
His wishes were frequently anticipated, and his in-
struction relative to the necessary supplies promptly
obeyed in spite of the many obstacles and embarrass-
ments that want of the usual payments necessarily
engendered. Success in the field is impossible with-
out the conscientious and faithful discharge of duty on
the part of officers charged with the vital matter of
supplies. In this campaign the officers of the Medical
Department have, by their care of the sick and skillful
treatment of the wounded, in some cases under very
adverse circumstances, noticeably so at the "battle of
the Big Hole," added to their already excellent reputa-
tion and standing in the Army. It was an unusual
campaign, and the ultimate successes reflect high
credit upon all who were called upon to exhibit the
courage, energy, endurance, and determination, by
which alone the end was so happily accomplished.
Certainly it is gratifying to all of us who were engaged
in this successful expedition to receive the unqualified
approval of those in authority over us. The General
Commanding therefore accompanies this recognition
of your eminent services with the congratulatory Order
of the Commander of this Military Division which con-
tains besides his own, the favorable opinion of the
General of the Army: (See ARMY AND NAVY JOURNAL
of Dec. 1, p. 258.)

CIRCULAR, DEPT. TEXAS, Dec. 21, 1877.

In accordance with telegraphic authority granted
by the Adjutant-General of the Army, under date of
Dec. 20, 1877, meritorious soldiers may be re-enlisted
at the posts where they may be stationed on expiration
of their terms of enlistment.

STAFF CORPS AND DEPARTMENTS

CHANGES OF STATIONS.

A. A. Surg. R. G. Redd, to Fort Keogh (S. O. 176,
Dec. 17, D. D.)

A. A. Surg. E. W. DuBose, to Cheyenne Agency,
D. T. (S. O. 169, Dec. 5, D. D.)

1st Lieut. W. B. Davis, M. D., from duty at Fort
A. Lincoln to Fort Totten; 1st Lieut. V. Havard, M.
D., to Fort A. Lincoln (S. O. 177, Dec. 20, D. D.)

A. A. Surg. C. A. Sewall, from Fort Wingate and
Ojo Caliente, N. M., to Fort Bliss, Texas (S. O. 97,
Dec. 17, D. D.)

A. A. Surgeon A. L. Flint, now at New Spotted

Tail Agency, to duty at that post; A. A. Surgeon V.
T. McGillicuddy, now at new Red Cloud Agency, to
duty at that post (S. O. 178, Dec. 23, D. D.)

Major C. C. Sniffen, P. D., to duty in Dept. of Cal-
ifornia, with station at San Francisco (S. O. 159, Dec.
14, M. D. P.)

Surg. D. Bache, from Angel Island, Cal., to Benicia
Arsenal, and Attending Surgeon at Benicia Bks, re-
lieving Surgeon J. C. Baily. Surgeon Baily will re-
port to the C. O. of the Presidio of San Francisco, Cal.,
for duty as Post Surgeon, and Attending Surgeon at
Point San José, Cal., relieving Surgeon S. A. Storrow.
Surgeon A. A. Woodhull will be the Attending Sur-
geon at Angel Island in addition to his present duties
(S. O. 158, Dec. 13, M. D. P.)

DETACHED SERVICE.

Capt. E. D. Baker, Q. M. Dept., to St. Paul, Minn.
(S. O. 177, Dec. 20, D. D.)

Capt. E. A. Koerber, A. Surg., member G. C. M.
Fort Sanders, Wy. T., Dec. 19 (S. O. 143, Dec. 15,
D. P.)

1st Lieut. J. Van K. Hoff, A. Surg., memb r G. C.-
M. Fort Fetterman, Wy. T., Jan. 2, S. O. 146, Dec.
20, D. P.)

Capt. A. J. McGonigle, A. Q. M., D. Q. M., New
Orleans, La., to Mobile, Ala. (S. O. 183, Dec. 17, D. G.)
Major W. D. Wolverton, M. D., to accompany four
companies of 7th Cavalry from Fort A. Lincoln to duty
in the field (S. O. 169, Dec. 5, D. D.)

Major B. A. Clements, Surgeon, member G. C. M.
Camp Douglas, U. T., by par. 3, S. O. 130, from there
Hdqs (S. O. 147, Dec. 21, D. P.)

A. Surg. J. M. Brown, Fort Garland, Colo., to
Washington, D. C. (S. O. 232, Dec. 23, D. M.)

Col. S. Van Vliet, Asst. Q. M. Gen., to duty tem-
porarily as Acting Quartermaster General (S. O. Dec.
21, W. D.)

LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

Twenty days, Capt. W. A. Elderkin, S. D., Sioux
City, Iowa (S. O. 169, Dec. 5, D. D.)

One month, to apply for extension of two months,
Capt. C. McClure, S. D., St. Paul, Minn. (S. O. 177,
Dec. 20, D. D.)

One month, A. Surgeon C. Smart (S. O., Dec. 21,
W. D.)

Eleven days, 2d Lieut. D. P. Mannix, U. S. Marine
Corps, attached for instruction—Artillery School, Fort
Monroe, Va. (S. O. 25, Dec. 21, D. E.)

One month, on Surgeon's certificate, Surg. J. H.
T. King, M. D., Fort Clark, Texas (S. O. 214, Dec. 19,
D. T.)

PAYMENT OF TROOPS.

The following assignment of paymasters is made for
the payment of troops to include the muster of Oct. 31,
1877: Major J. H. Eaton, Fort Canby, W. T., and
Fort Stephens, Ore.; Major J. P. Canby, Fort Van-
couver, and Vancouver Arsenal, W. T., Fort Boise,
I. T., and Camp Harney, Ore.; Major W. M. May-
nardier, Fort Walla Walla, W. T., Fort Lapwai, and
Camp Howard, near Mt. Idaho, I. T.; Major J. B.
Keefer, Camp at Spokane Falls, and Fort Colville, W.
T. (S. O. 178, Dec. 4, D. C.)

Major W. H. Johnston, P. D., will pay troops at
Cavalry Depot, St. Louis, and Jefferson Bks, Mo., to
Dec. 31, 1877; Major W. R. Gibson, P. D., will pay
troops at Fort Leavenworth, and Leavenworth Military
Prison; Forts Riley, Hays, and Wallace, Kas., and
Forts Lyon and Garland, Colo., to Dec. 31, 1877; Maj.
W. H. Johnston, P. D., to Fort Gibson, I. T., and
thence via Caddo, I. T., to Forts Sill and Reno, I. T.,
paying troops at those points to Dec. 31, 1877; Major
F. Bridgman, P. D., will pay troops at Chicago and
Rock Island Arsenal, Ill., to Dec. 31, 1877; Majors J.
P. Willard and A. S. Towar, P. D., will proceed from
Santa Fe, N. M., for the purpose of paying troops sta-
tioned in the District, except Fort Garland, Colo., to
Dec. 31, 1877; Major J. A. Brodhead, P. D., to Forts
Larned and Dodge, Kas., Camp Supply, I. T., and
Fort Elliott, Texas, paying troops at those points to
Dec. 31, 1877 (S. O. 239, Dec. 18, D. M.)

Major C. C. Sniffen, P. D., will proceed to Tucson,
A. T., to make payments now due in the southern pay
district of Arizona (S. O. 160, Dec. 17, M. D. P.)

Major J. B. M. Potter, P. D., at Camp Bidwell,
Cal., and Camps McDermitt and Halleck, Nev.; Major
W. A. Rucker, P. D., at the Presidio of San Fran-
cisco, Angel and Alcatraz Islands, Benicia Bks, Beni-
cia Arsenal, Point San José, and Camp Gaston, Cal.
(S. O. 152, Nov. 30, M. D. P.)

RELIEVED.

Capt. C. McClure, S. D., member Board of Survey
convened by par. 3, S. O. 166, from these Hdqs (S.
O. 177, Dec. 20, D. D.)

A. Surg. C. Styer, as member G. C. M. Fort Porter,
N. Y., Dec. 21, by par. 3, S. O. 18, from these Hdqs
(S. O. 24, Dec. 20, D. E.)

Major W. McFarland, C. E., in addition to his pre-
sent duties, will relieve Lieut.-Col. C. E. Blunt,
C. E., of the works now in his charge, viz.: improve-
ment of the harbors of Rocky River, Cleveland, Grand
River, Ashtabula, Conneaut, Erie, Dunkirk, and
Buffalo, on Lake Erie, and construction of Fort Porter,
N. Y., and Fort Wayne, Michigan (S. O., Dec. 21
W. D.)

NON-COMMISSIONED STAFF.

Hosp. Steward J. Livingstone, to duty at New
Spotted Tail Agency (S. O. 169, Dec. 5, D. D.)

Hosp. Steward A. Herbst will return to his station,
Carlisle Bks, Pa. (S. O. 214, Dec. 19, D. T.)

THE LINE.

1ST CAVALRY, Colonel Ovier Grover.—Headquarters, and E. F. H. L. Fort Walla Walla, W. T.; C. Camp Bidwell, Cal.; B. Fort Klamath, Oregon; I. Camp Halleck, Nev.; A. K. Camp Harney, Or.; M. Fort Colville, Wash. T.; D. Presidio, Cal.; G. Fort Boise, I. T.

Leave Extended.—1st Lieut. G. R. Bacon, Camp Harney, Ore., one month, to apply for further extension of four months (S. O. 158, Dec. 12, M. D. P.)
Capt. D. Perry, Fort Walla Walla, W. T., one month, to apply for further extension of six months (S. O. 161, Dec. 18, M. D. P.)

2ND CAVALRY, Colonel I. N. Palmer.—Headquarters and C. D. K. M. Fort Custer, M. T.; A. B. E. I. Fort Keogh; P. G. H. L. Fort Ellis, M. T.

Leave of Absence.—One month, to apply for extension of five months, 2d Lieut. C. F. Roe, Fort Custer (S. O. 170, Dec. 6, D. D.)

3RD CAVALRY, Col. Thos. C. Devin.—Headquarters, and A. B. F. K. Fort Laramie, W. T.; I. Fort Fetterman, W. T.; C. Camp Robinson, Neb.; G. Camp Sheridan, Neb.; D. Fort Sanders, W. T.; E. L. New Red Cloud Agency, D. T.; H. M. New Spotted Tail Agency, D. T.

Detached Service.—Capt. G. V. Henry, 1st Lieut. J. C. Thompson, members, G. C. M. Fort Sanders, Wy. T., Dec. 19 (S. O. 143, Dec. 15, D. P.)

1st Lieut. A. D. King, member, G. C. M. Fort Fetterman, Wy. T., Jan. 2 (S. O. 146, Dec. 20, D. P.)
To Join.—1st Lieut. R. E. Whitman from duty at Sidney Bks, Neb., to join his company (H) in Dept. of Dakota (S. O. 147, Dec. 21, D. P.)

Lynched by His Comrades.—A despatch from Hot Creek, Wy. T., Dec. 15, says: At Silver Springs, twenty-five miles south of here, a member of Co. A, 3d Cav., one of the three now en route to the Hills, named Kennedy, while under the influence of liquor yesterday, threatened the life of a sergeant of his company, named Schaffer, but was prevented at the time from carrying his threat into execution. Shortly after arriving in camp in the evening, Kennedy procured a carbine, went to the tent where he supposed Schaffer would be found, and opening the flap, fired at the first man he saw, killing him instantly; but, instead of Schaffer, it proved to be John A. Van Moll, first sergeant of the company. Kennedy was immediately disarmed and put under charge of a guard. Great excitement prevailed among the men of the company, by whom Van Moll was greatly respected, and some time during the night the guard was overpowered, and a blanket was thrown over Kennedy's head, and at daylight this morning his body was found suspended to the ridgepole of the guard tent by the neck, life extinct. Van Moll's body was brought here to-day, and will be forwarded to-morrow to Fort Laramie for interment. An exchange gives the following sketch of Van Moll: He was born in Massachusetts in 1844. His father was a Belgian and his mother was Irish. He received a fair education, and, when little more than fifteen years old, he joined one of the New England regiments as a drummer boy. In 1863 he dropped the drum and took up the rifle, distinguishing himself particularly at Gettysburg, where he was promoted to a sergeantcy. When Petersburg was taken he was recommended for a commission, but the sudden collapse of the war spoiled his chances in that respect. After remaining a short time with his Massachusetts friends he enlisted in the 3d Cav., and was soon advanced to the position of first sergeant of Co. A, which he held at the time of his death. In Crook's Indian campaign of 1876 Van Moll was distinguished for his dashing bravery, and was recommended by some of the officers for a commission, and his name was on file for a lieutenantcy at the War Department. He was a dashing rider, a splendid shot and a thoroughly sober and conscientious non-commissioned officer. In his death the 3d Cav. has sustained a severe loss, for he set an example of heroism and honor to the entire command. On the march, in unison with his stanch friend, Corporal Bessie, he always kept the company enlivened by his sweet singing. This faculty made him a most agreeable bivouac fire comrade.

4TH CAVALRY, Col. R. S. McKenzie.—Headquarters, and A. C. D. K. L. M. San Antonio, Tex.; G. H. Fort Reno, I. T.; E. Fort Sill, I. T.; I. Camp Supply, I. T.; B. F. Fort Elliott, Tex.

Leave Extended.—2d Lieut. J. H. Dorst, Fort Sill, Ind. T., one month (S. O. 118, Dec. 20, M. D. M.)

5TH CAVALRY, Col. W. Merritt.—Headquarters and A. B. F. H. I. Fort D. A. Russell, W. T.; C. E. M. Fort McKinney, W. T.; D. Sidney Bks, Neb.; L. Fort McPherson, Neb.; G. K. Camp Brown, W. T.

Detached Service.—Capt. G. F. Pierce, 2d Lieut. C. H. Watts, members, G. C. M. Fort Fetterman, Wy. T., Jan. 2 (S. O. 146, Dec. 20, D. P.)

Relieved.—1st Lieut. P. P. Barnard from duty as member G. C. M. by par. 2, S. O. 142, from these Hdqrs (S. O. 147, Dec. 21, D. P.)

6TH CAVALRY, Col. James Oakes.—Headquarters and C. G. M. Camp Grant, A. T.; B. Camp Lowell, A. T.; K. Fort Whipple, A. T.; H. L. Camp Bowie, A. T.; E. D. Camp Apache, A. T.; A. Camp Verde, A. T.; I. Camp McDowell, A. T.; F. Camp Thomas, A. T.

In camp near old Camp Wallen, A. T.
7TH CAVALRY, Colonel S. D. Sturgis.—Headquarters, and A. D. E. G. H. I. K. L. M. Ft. A. Lincoln, D. T.; C. F. Ft. Totten, D. T.; B. Standing Rock Agency, D. T.

Change of Station.—Cos. E (Isley's), I (Nowlan's), L (Sheridan's) and M (French's) from temporary duty in the field to Fort A. Lincoln; Co. C (Jackson's), now at Fort A. Lincoln, to Fort Totten (S. O. 176, Dec. 17, D. D.)

Detached Service.—The telegraphic instructions from these Hdqrs, 4th inst., detaching Cos. E (Isley's), I (Nowlan's), L (Sheridan's) and M (French's) from Fort A. Lincoln, for duty in the field, are confirmed (S. O. 169, Dec. 5, D. D.)

Leave Extended.—Capt. J. M. Bell, Fort Totten, D. T., one month (S. O. 119, Dec. 21, M. D. M.)

Martin Ryan.—The officers of the War Department,

according to a newspaper despatch from Washington, give no credence to the report that a man of this name, a survivor of the Custer fight, is held in captivity by Sitting Bull. There was in the 7th a Daniel Ryan, who was twenty-one years old in 1872, described as having gray eyes, dark hair and fair complexion, five feet nine inches in height and reported as killed in the Custer fight. One Michael Ryan was for some time a clerk in the War Department, and studied law and graduated with highest honors at the Columbia Law College, but was removed for dissolute habits. He is described as fine looking, of dark complexion, heavy build, of excellent clerical abilities, and aged about thirty-six years. He is thought by those who know him here to be just the kind of romantic scapegrace that would stray into Sitting Bull's camp and take the role attributed to him by the scout McShane in representations made to General Terry, on which the present official action of the State Department is based, in asking the Canadian authorities to investigate the representations made of Ryan's forced detention in the camp of the hostile Sioux.

8TH CAVALRY, Col. J. I. Gregg.—Headquarters and C. D. I. L. M. Fort Brown, Tex.; A. B. F. K. Fort Clark, Tex.; E. G. H. Ringgold Barracks, Tex.

Scouting.
9TH CAVALRY, Col. Edward Hatch.—Headquarters, Santa Fe, N. M.; D. E. F. Fort Union, N. M.; I. L. Ft. Bliss, Tex.; E. Fort Garland, C. T.; F. H. M. Ft. Stanton, N. M.; A. B. C. G. Fort Bayard, N. M.

In the field.
Change of Station.—Co. I from duty at Fort Union, N. M., and Capt. F. Moore will proceed in command of it to Fort Bliss, Tex. (S. O. 93, Dec. 11, D. N. M.)

2d Lieut. D. J. Gibbon from Fort Garland, Colo., to Fort Bliss, Tex. (S. O. 95, Dec. 14, D. N. M.)
Major J. F. Wade to Fort Bliss, Tex. (S. O. 97, Dec. 17, D. N. M.)

2d Lieut. J. F. Guilfoyle and B. I. Butler to Fort Bliss, Tex. (S. O. 98, Dec. 18, D. N. M.)

Detached Service.—1st Lieut. L. H. Rucker, R. Q. M., to Fort Union, N. M. (S. O. 94, Dec. 12, D. N. M.)
Co. I from Fort Wingate, N. M., to Fort Bliss, Tex. (S. O. 96, Dec. 15, D. N. M.)

1st Lieut. L. H. Rucker, R. Q. M., to Fort Wingate, N. M.; Co. D from Ojo Caliente, N. M., via Fort Selden, N. M., to Fort Bliss, Tex.; Capt. C. D. Beyer to proceed with all available cavalry at Fort Bayard, N. M., to Fort Bliss, Tex. (S. O. 97, Dec. 17, D. N. M.)

Leave Extended.—1st Lieut. F. B. Taylor, Ojo Caliente, N. M., ten days (S. O. 130, Dec. 22, M. D. M.)

Murdered.—Samuel Douglass, of Co. D, discharged at Fort Bayard, was found dead shortly after at Santa Fe, having been murdered by some unknown person, the instrument used being that of a stone some ten or twelve pounds in weight, which was found near the body covered with blood. The back of the head was crushed in.

10TH CAVALRY, Colonel Benjamin H. Grierson.—Headquarters and D. L. Ft. Concho, Tex.; A. G. I. Fort Sill, I. T.; H. Fort Davis, Tex.; B. Fort Duncan, Tex.; E. San Felipe, Tex.; F. K. M. Ft. Clark, Tex.; G. Ft. McKavett, Tex.

Leave of Absence.—One month, to apply for extension of three months, 2d Lieut. T. W. Jones, Fort Griffin, Tex. (S. O. 215, Dec. 20, D. T.)

1ST ARTILLERY, Col. Israel Vogdes.—Headquarters and B. E. F. K. Fort Adams, R. I.; A. I. Fort Warren, Mass.; C. M. Fort Trumbull, Conn.; H. Fort Probie, Me.; D. L. Fort Independence, Mass.; G. Fort Monroe, Va.

Detached Service.—Capt. R. T. Frank, F. E. Taylor, 1st Lieut. J. L. Sherman, J. W. MacMurray, J. W. Dillenback, Q. M., W. P. Van Ness, 2d Lieut. J. S. Oyster, A. Todd, Additional 2d Lieut. D. Price, members, and 1st Lieut. J. M. K. Davis, Adj., J. A. of G. C. M. Fort Adams, R. I., Dec. 24 (S. O. 25, Dec. 21, D. E.)

Capt. R. H. Jackson, T. McCrea and C. P. Eakin to N. Y. City (S. O. 25, Dec. 21, D. E.)

Leave of Absence.—Fifteen days, 2d Lieut. C. H. Clark, Fort Adams, R. I.; fifteen days, to take effect Dec. 23, Capt. J. P. Sanger, Fort Warren, Mass. (S. O. 23, Dec. 19, D. E.)

Rejoin.—1st Lieut. J. M. Ingalls from duty at the Houghton High School, Houghton, Mich., and will rejoin his battery (S. O. Dec. 20, W. D.)

Bread Ration.—The increase to twenty-two ounces of the bread ration of Bats. A and I will terminate on the 1st of January, 1878 (S. O. 27, Dec. 24, D. E.)

2ND ARTILLERY, Colonel William F. Barry.—Headquarters and A. D. M. Fort McHenry, Md.; C. Fort Johnston, N. C.; E. F. G. L. San Antonio, Tex.; K. Fort Monroe, Va.; I. Washington, D. C.; B. Fort Foote, Md.

3RD ARTILLERY, Col. George W. Getty.—Headquarters and C. D. L. M. Fort Hamilton, N. Y.; A. Ft. Monroe, Va.; E. I. Fort Wadsworth, N. Y.; B. Fort Niagara, N. Y.; F. Fort Ontario, N. Y.; H. Madison Bks, N. Y.; K. Plattsburg Bks, N. Y.; G. Fort Schuyler, N. Y.

Detached Service.—Capt. W. Sinclair, J. G. Turnbull, 1st Lieut. G. A. Thurston, C. Humphreys, J. M. Califf, 2d Lieut. L. L. Bruff, members, and 1st Lieut. J. D. C. Hoskins, Adj., J. A. of G. C. M. Fort Hamilton, N. Y., Dec. 23 (S. O. 24, Dec. 20, D. E.)

Lieut.-Col. R. B. Ayres and 1st Lieut. J. M. Lancaster to N. Y. City (S. O. 25, Dec. 21, D. E.)

Leave of Absence.—From Dec. 22, 1877, to Jan. 5, 1878, to apply for extension of seven days, 2d Lieut. C. W. Foster, Fort Monroe, Va. (S. O. 23, Dec. 13, D. E.)

4TH ARTILLERY, Col. W. H. French.—Headquarters, B. C. E. L. Presidio, Cal.; H. K. Alcatraz Isl., Cal.; M. Fort Stevens, Or.; D. G. Fort Canby, Wash. T.; I. Fort Monroe, Va.; A. Fort Townsend, W. T.; F. Ft. San Jose, Cal.

Leave Extended.—1st Lieut. A. B. Dyer, Fort Monroe, Va., until Jan. 6, 1878 (S. O. 26, Dec. 23, D. E.)

5TH ARTILLERY, Col. Henry J. Hunt.—Headquarters and B. E. Ft. Charleston, S. C.; K. St. Augustine, Fla.; B. L. M. Fort Barrancas, Fla.; G. H. Fort Brooke, Fla.; C. Fort Monroe, Va.; D. Savannah, Ga.

Detached Service.—Major R. Arnold, Insp.-Gen., to

Detroit, Mich., and Buffalo, N. Y. (S. O. 23, Dec. 19, D. E.)

Major R. Arnold, Insp.-Gen., to Boston, Mass., and Fort Adams, Newport, R. I. (S. O. 26, Dec. 23, D. E.)

Leave Extended.—2d Lieut. J. P. Jefferson, ten days (S. O. 27, Dec. 24, D. E.)

1ST INFANTRY, Colonel Thomas G. Pitcher.—Headquarters and A. C. E. I. Ft. Randall, D. T.; B. G. Lower Brule Agency, D. F. H. K. Fort Sully, D. T.

Detached Service.—Capt. R. E. Johnston is to witness at the Indian Agencies in the vicinity of Lower Brule Agency, "each delivery of beef and other supplies" for the Indians, by the contractors, vice 1st Lieut. W. E. Dougherty, relieved (S. O. 177, Dec. 20, D. D.)

2ND INFANTRY, Colonel Frank Wheaton.—Headquarters and A. B. D. F. G. Fort Lapwai, I. T.; C. K. Mt. Idaho, I. T.; H. I. Spokane Falls, I. T.; E. Fort Colville, W. T.

Leave of Absence.—One month, 1st Lieut. D. A. Griffith, Helena Bks (S. O. 177, Dec. 20, D. D.)

4TH INFANTRY, Colonel Franklin F. Flint.—Headquarters and G. K. Fort Bridger, W. T.; A. Fort Fred. Steele, W. T.; C. Fort Fetterman, W. T.; D. Omaha Bks, Neb.; B. E. I. Cantonment Reno, W. T.; H. Camp Stambaugh; F. Fort Sanders, W. T.

Detached Service.—Capt. G. L. Luhn, member, and 2d Lieut. H. E. Robinson, J. A. of G. C. M. Fort Sanders, Wy. T., Dec. 19 (S. O. 143, Dec. 15, D. P.)

Capt. E. M. Coates, member, and 2d Lieut. L. A. Lovering, J. A. of G. C. M. Fort Fetterman, Wy. T., Jan. 2 (S. O. 146, Dec. 20, D. P.)

5TH INFANTRY, Colonel Nelson A. Miles.—Headquarters and A. B. C. D. E. F. G. H. I. K. Ft. Keogh, M. T.

Detached Service.—The Supt. Gen. Recruiting Service will cause one hundred and fifty recruits to be forwarded to Bismarck, D. T., for assignment to the 5th Inf. (S. O., Dec. 20, W. D.)

To Join.—Col. N. A. Miles to join his station (S. O. 176, Dec. 17, D. D.)

6TH INFANTRY, Colonel William B. Hazen.—Headquarters and E. F. G. I. Ft. Buford, D. T.; A. Fort Rice, D. T.; B. Ft. Abraham Lincoln, D. T.; H. K. Fort Stevenson, D. T.; C. Glendive, M. T.; D. Fort Peck, M. T.

Detached Service.—During the temporary absence of Capt. C. McClure, S. D., 1st Lieut. E. B. Gibbs, A. D. C., will perform the duties of Depot, Purchasing and Post C. S. at St. Paul, Minn. (S. O. 177, Dec. 20, D. D.)

7TH INFANTRY, Col. John Gibbon.—Headquarters, and A. B. C. H. I. K. Fort Shaw, M. T.; G. Fort Ellis, M. T.; D. E. Camp Baker, M. T.; F. Fort Benton, M. T.

Leave of Absence.—One month from Nov. 22, to apply for extension of five months, 2d Lieut. A. B. Johnson, Fort Shaw (S. O. 169, Dec. 5, D. D.)

8TH INFANTRY, Col. August V. Kautz.—Headquarters, Prescott, A. T.; F. Fort Whipple, A. T.; A. B. Camp Verde, A. T.; C. Camp McDowell, A. T.; K. Camp Lowell, A. T.; E. G. Camp Apache, A. T.; H. San Diego, Cal.; I. Cp. Grant, A. T.; D. Camp Thomas, A. T.

Leave Extended.—Capt. A. W. Corliss, two months (S. O., Dec. 21, W. D.)

9TH INFANTRY, Col. John H. King.—Headquarters and B. G. H. I. Omaha Barrack, Neb.; E. Cantonment Reno, W. T.; A. F. Fort McPherson, Neb.; C. Camp at Cheyenne Depot, W. T.; D. Sidney Bks, Neb.; K. Fort Sanders, W. T.

Detached Service.—Lieut.-Col. L. P. Bradley, 1st Lieut. A. H. Bowman, 2d Lieut. G. Palmer, members, G. C. M. Fort Sanders, Wy. T., Dec. 19 (S. O. 143, Dec. 15, D. P.)

Capt. W. H. Jordan, member, G. C. M. by par. 2, S. O. 142, from these Hdqrs (S. O. 147, Dec. 21, D. P.)

Relieved.—2d Lieut. T. S. McCaleb from duty as member G. C. M. by par. 2, S. O. 142, from these Hdqrs (S. O. 147, Dec. 21, D. P.)

10TH INFANTRY, Colonel Henry B. Clitz.—Headquarters and A. B. C. F. I. Fort McKavett, Texas; D. Fort McIntosh, Tex.; E. San Antonio, Tex.; G. H. K. Fort Clark, Tex.

In the field.
Rejoin.—2d Lieut. S. Y. Seyburn from duty with Co. C, 10th Cav., to Fort McKavett, Tex., and join his company, A (S. O. 210, Dec. 13, D. P.)

11TH INFANTRY, Colonel William H. Wood.—Headquarters and A. D. E. G. I. K. Cheyenne Agency, D. T.; H. Fort Keogh, M. T.; B. C. F. Post No. 2, M. T.

12TH INFANTRY, Colonel Orlando B. Willcox.—Headquarters and C. D. F. Angel Island, Cal.; A. Camp Mojave, A. T.; E. Camp Gaston, Cal.; G. I. Camp McDermitt, Nev.; H. Cp. Halleck, Nev.; B. K. Benicia Bks, Cal.

13TH INFANTRY, Colonel P. R. de Trobriand.—Headquarters and A. D. H. I. Jackson Bks, La.; B. F. K. Baton Rouge Bks, La.; C. E. Little Rock Bks, Ark.; G. Mount Vernon, Ala.

Detached Service.—Major R. S. LaMotte, Capt. A. MacArthur, Jr., W. M. Waterbury, G. M. Bascom, 1st Lieut. W. Auman, J. Fornance, members, and 1st Lieut. J. S. Bishop, J. A. of G. C. M. Baton Rouge Bks, La., Dec. 26 (S. O. 185, Dec. 20, D. G.)

14TH INFANTRY, Col. John E. Smith.—Headquarters and D. E. F. G. I. Camp Douglas, Utah; A. Fort Hall, Idaho; B. C. H. Fort Cameron, U. T.; K. Fort Hartau.

Detached Service.—Capt. D. Krause, J. H. Van Der-slice, F. E. Trotter, A. H. B. Inbridge, 2d Lieut. G. T. T. Patterson, R. A. Lovell, W. A. Kimball, members, and 2d Lieut. J. Hall, J. A. of G. C. M. Fort Hall, Idaho T., Dec. 26 (S. O. 145, Dec. 18, D. P.)

1st Lieut. W. W. McCammon, Adj., J. A. of G. C. M. Camp Douglas, U. T., by par. 3, S. O. 130, from these Hdqrs, in place of 1st Lieut. P. Hasson, relieved (S. O. 147, Dec. 21, D. P.)

15TH INFANTRY, Col. Geo. A. Woodward.—Headquarters and D. K. Ft. Wingate, N. M.; B. Ft. Garland, C. T.; A. G. Fort Craig, N. M.; C. Ft. Union, N. M.; E. Fort Bayard, N. M.; H. Fort Stanton, N. M.; I. Fort Marcy, N. M.

Detached Service.—Capt. C. McKibbin, Fort Marcy,

N. M., and Capt. G. Shorkley, Fort Garland, Colo., to Washington, D. C. (S. O. 232, Dec. 22, D. M.)

16TH INFANTRY, Colonel G. Pennypacker.—Headquarters, A. C. H. Fort Riley, Kas.; E. I. Fort Reno, I. T.; B. D. Fort Sill, I. T.; G. Fort Hays, Kas.; K. Fort Gibson, I. T.; F. Fort Wallace, Kas.

17TH INFANTRY, Colonel Thomas L. Crittenden.—Headquarters and A. B. C. D. E. F. I. K. Standing Rock Ay., D. T.; G. Fort A. Lincoln, D. T.; H. Fort Rice, D. T.

18TH INFANTRY, Colonel Thomas H. Ruger.—Headquarters and B. C. D. E. F. G. K. McPherson Bks, Atlanta, Ga.; H. I. Newport Bks, Ky.; A. Chattanooga, Tenn.

19TH INFANTRY, Colonel Charles H. Smith.—Headquarters and E. H. K. Ft. Lyon, C. T.; F. G. Ft. Dodge, Kas.; D. Fort Larned, Kas.; C. I. Fort Elliott, Tex.; A. B. Camp Supply, I. T.

Leave of Absence.—One month, to apply for extension of three months, Capt. W. T. Genury, Fort Elliott, Tex. (S. O. 228, Dec. 17, D. M.)

Leave Extended.—2d Lieut. G. B. Read, Fort Elliott, Tex., one month (S. O. 119, Dec. 21, M. D. M.)

30TH INFANTRY, Colonel Geo. Sykes.—Headquarters and A. B. C. D. E. F. G. H. I. K. San Antonio, Tex.

Detached Service.—1st Lieut. W. H. Low, Jr., will report to the C. O. of his regiment (S. O. 176, Dec. 17, D. D.)

21ST INFANTRY, Colonel Alfred Sully.—Headquarters and B. D. E. G. H. I. Fort Vancouver, W. T.; K. Camp Harney, Or.; C. Ft. Townsend, W. T.; F. Fort Klamath, Or.; A. Fort Boise, I. T.

Detached Service.—Major E. C. Mason, A. A. I. G., to Forts Canby and Stevens (S. O. 178, Dec. 4, D. C.)

22ND INFANTRY, Colonel David S. Stanley.—Headquarters and A. C. D. H. Fort Wayne, Mich.; F. K. Fort Brady, Mich.; B. G. Fort Porter, N. Y.; E. Fort Mackinac, Mich.; I. Fort Gratiot, Mich.

Detached Service.—1st Lieut. G. S. L. Ward, A. D. C., to Columbus, Ohio (S. O. 23, Dec. 19, D. E.)

2d Lieut. M. C. Martin, member, G. C.-M. Fort Porter, N. Y., Dec. 21, by par. 8, S. O. 18, from these Hdqrs (S. O. 24, Dec. 20, D. E.)

23RD INFANTRY, Colonel Jeff. C. Davis.—Headquarters and A. C. D. E. F. G. H. I. K. Fort Leavenworth, Kas.; F. Fort Dodge, Kas.

24TH INFANTRY, Colonel Joseph H. Potter.—Headquarters and A. D. Fort Clark, Tex.; E. H. Fort Brown, Tex.; C. G. I. K. Ringgold Barracks, Tex.; B. F. Fort Duncan, Tex.

Detached Service.—Lieut.-Col. W. R. Shafter and 1st Lieut. J. L. Bullis to Washington city, D. C. (S. O. 214, Dec. 19, D. T.)

25TH INFANTRY, Colonel George L. Andrews.—Headquarters and A. H. I. Fort Davis, Tex.; C. D. F. Fort Stockton, Tex.; B. K. Ft. Clark, Tex.; G. Ft. Concho, Tex.; E. Fort Duncan, Tex.

Officers Registered.—At Hdqrs Mil. Div. Atlantic, Dec. 26: 1st Lieut. J. H. Coale, 2d Cav.; 2d Lieut. H. P. Walker, 17th Inf.; Lieut.-Col. E. S. Otis, 22d Inf.; Capt. J. B. Irvine, 23d Inf.; 1st Lieut. E. H. Totten, 1st Art.; Capt. A. C. M. Pennington, 2d Art.; Capt. L. L. Langdon, 1st Art.; Capt. P. M. Boehm, 4th Cav.; Capt. J. E. Wilson, 3d Art.; Capt. J. G. Ramsay, 2d Art.; Major G. A. De Russy, 3d Art.; 1st Lieut. F. B. Baker, 13th Inf.; Capt. D. C. Poole, 22d Inf.; Capt. J. Lee, 4th Cav.; 1st Lieut. P. P. Barnard, 5th Cav.; Capt. R. H. Jackson, 1st Art.; Major J. E. Yard, 20th Inf.; Capt. L. E. Campbell, A. Q. M., U. S. A.; 2d Lieut. S. A. Cherry, 5th Cav.; 1st Lieut. J. C. White, 1st Art.; 1st Lieut. C. H. Clark, 1st Art.; 1st Lieut. C. L. Best, Jr., 1st Art.

INDIAN AFFAIRS.

The following has been received at the War Department:

SAN FRANCISCO, December 25, 1877.

Adjutant General, Washington, D. C.:

General Kautz has just received the following from Camp Bowie, Arizona, dated 24th: "Lieuts. Rucker and Fouey, 6th Cavalry, returned. Struck party that killed mail rider Dec. 14 east of Steinspeal Range. Killed one. Five days later struck them in Old Mexico. Surprised rancho thirty-four. Destroyed camp, captured sixteen horses, fifty saddles and lots of stuff which renegades had taken from train. Fifteen dead Indians on ground. More killed. Mail recaptured."

McDOWELL.

The following despatches appear in the daily papers:

SAN FRANCISCO, December 24.

A Tucson (Ariz.) despatch says about one hundred and thirty Indians camped near Jaros, Sonora, recently. The Sonora troops attacked them, losing twenty-seven killed and a number wounded. The Indian casualties are not stated. The Indians were apparently victorious, as they subsequently stripped the country in the vicinity of Jaros of stock. The Indians have been robbing trains in the San Simon Valley. Troops are in pursuit.

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH, December 24.

Colonel John E. Smith, commanding 14th Infantry, who was sent to Fort Hall, Id., to investigate a threatened war with the Bannock Indians, has made a demand for the surrender of the Indian who murdered Alex. Rhoden at Ross Fork. They have promised to deliver him, but it is not believed that they will do it. They are well armed, well mounted and insolent, and it is thought they will make trouble in the spring.

DEADWOOD, DAK., December 24.

Cos. E. I and K, 11th Infantry, in command of Major Charles G. Bartlett, arrived at Crook City last evening from Cheyenne Agency via the Fort Pierre route. Major Bartlett reports that although often hearing of Indians along the road, he saw none. His

command crossed an Indian trail at the Cheyenne River, crossing which led northwest, and he expresses the opinion that the Indians who committed the depredations in this vicinity have gone to the Little Missouri River or Tongue River.

THE RIO GRANDE FRONTIER.

A DESPATCH dated Brownsville, Tex., Dec. 26, says: The Lower Rio Grande has been remarkably quiet for several months past: in fact since the raid on the Rio Grande City Jail, four months ago, there have been no depredations of any kind worthy of mention.

The War Department Dec. 26, received despatches in relation to events that have just transpired in San Elizario and in El Paso County: but the only information made public by the department is that all is now quiet there, and that Col. Lewis, who commands in San Elizario, has been ordered to assist the Sheriff in making arrests, to prevent violence against all persons arrested, and to protect the citizens from being pillaged or in any way interfered with by the mob. It is unofficially stated, however, that the United States troops were called upon to assist in making arrests of parties connected with the killing of Judge Howard and others: that in doing so, resistance was offered, and two of the mob were killed, and that subsequently, two of the persons arrested were taken out and lynched by rangers. The President has directed that the Governor of Texas be informed that the troops cannot be employed to assist in the arrest of citizens who are to be afterward given over to execution without the proper forms of judicial proceedings.

The following official despatch has been received at Washington:

CHICAGO, December 21, 1877.

General E. D. Townsend, Washington, D. C.

The following despatch has been just received from General Pope. He has been directed to send troops to San Elizario without any further delay.

P. H. SHERIDAN.

"Everything is reported quiet at El Paso. San Elizario will be occupied the moment troops enough arrive at El Paso."

MEXICAN OUTRAGES.

THE following is the report of the testimony of Lieut.-General Sheridan before the House Military Committee, on the subject of Mexican outrages. Gen. Sheridan's testimony is confirmed in detail by Gen. Ord and other officers on the border.

By General Banning—What is your opinion as to the wisdom of authorizing the following of raiders on a fresh trail across the border? A. I would not like to express a judgment on that; I have thought heretofore that it was the only thing that we could resort to to stop these raids, and I came here at one time prepared to recommend that course, but I have always thought that there ought to be some international effort made to have these depredations stopped.

Q. Suppose an arrangement was made, do you believe that Mexico could enforce it, from your knowledge of the population upon the border? A. I think they could; the only trouble would be the danger of revolution and the confusion resulting therefrom.

Q. Do you think they have the power to enforce a commercial treaty? A. I do not know, sir; the revolutions that so often occur in Mexico make it very difficult to enforce any special conditions on the frontier.

Q. Do you recommend the multiplication of posts on the Rio Grande, or do you think that there are posts enough there now? A. I think there could be additional garrisons established there with advantage.

Q. Between what points? A. Between the mouth of Devil's River, which is north of Fort Clark probably one hundred miles, and the mouth of the Rio Grande.

Q. Would you suggest a new post north of Fort Duncan? A. Yes, sir; there should be one north of Fort Duncan, about one hundred and fifty miles, I should judge.

By Mr. Bragg—General Mason told us that there was a large reservation in New Mexico, and that upon that reservation there were about two hundred warriors who sometimes came down into Texas and raided both in Texas and Mexico, and that they had twice been followed and attacked by Mexicans and discovered to be our Indians; and he thought, perhaps, if they were removed it would remove one of the causes which tend to irritate the feelings of Mexican inhabitants on the border. A. I do not think there has been much raiding in Mexico from our Indians on the Stanton Reservation; there was a report some time ago that some of those Indians had gone over to Mexico and committed depredations, and that they had been followed by a band of Mexicans to our side; that the Mexicans were beaten and driven off, but that they were afterward reinforced and came back and attacked the Indians and killed several of them; but I doubt whether that has been confirmed; at least I have had official information sufficient to make me doubt that it was the case.

By General Banning—Have not the raids by Indians and Mexican outlaws been less frequent during the last year than during previous years? A. That would be pinning me down a little too close, without examining the records; but I am willing to say that they have been growing less, and that so far as my present impressions go they have been less for the last two years.

Q. Has not the disposition of the Diaz government toward the United States been good and in the direction of preventing these raids? A. So far as I know from official correspondence, General Ord and the Mexican authorities have been on very amicable terms, and they seem to co-operate with each other.

Q. Have you at this time in your mind any raid of either Indians or Mexicans within the last year by which any property of citizens of the United States was carried away? A. I have not any in my mind, but I think there have been raids within the last year in which cattle have been taken.

Q. Have you in your mind any case in which Indians or outlaws have gone from our side into Mexico within the last two years? A. I have no direct knowledge of any such case.

Q. Have you had such crossings reported to you, or any complaints and statements of them from your officers? A. I have had the official reports of the crossing of troops.

Q. I do not mean troops; I mean thieves or rascals from our side? A. No, sir.

Q. Have you had any information of Mexicans following back to our side bands that went over to Mexico from Texas? A. Yes, sir; within the last six months.

Q. Bands that went over there from our side to steal? A. No, sir; I think they followed a revolutionary band that went over under a man named Valdez; they attacked and drove him over to our side and followed him and attacked him again there, and he went down to Fort Clark for protection and surrendered to our troops; that was very soon after the order was issued to our people to cross the Rio Grande in pursuit of raiders.

Q. You say the Mexicans followed him back into the United States? A. The Mexican troops did.

Q. Can you advise the committee at this time of any raid by Indians or Mexicans into the United States since the Diaz government has been in control in Mexico? A. I have had official notification that raids were contemplated by the Lipan Indians; I do not know whether I have had any official information of their having carried out their intention, though I have seen reports in the papers to that effect; I have had official information that some few Mexicans came over and joined the people of El Paso in the salt trouble.

Q. The people of El Paso—I mean the citizens living there—are mostly Mexicans, are they not? A. Yes.

Q. And a large portion of the people along the border on our side are Mexicans? A. Yes.

THE STORY OF THE WILDERNESS.

GENERAL RICHARD TAYLOR, late of the Confederate Service, in an article published in the *North American Review*, says:

"After the battle of Chickamauga, in 1863, General Grant was promoted to the command of the armies of the United States, and called to Washington. In a conference at the War Office between him, President Lincoln and Secretary Stanton, the approaching campaign in Virginia was discussed. Grant said the advance on Richmond should be made by the James River. It was replied that the Government required the interposition of an army between Lee and Washington, and would not consent at that late day to the adoption of a plan that would be taken by the public as a confession of previous error. Grant observed he was indifferent as to routes, but if the Government preferred its own—so often tried—to the one he suggested, it must be prepared for the additional loss of 100,000 men. The men were promised, Grant accepted the governmental plan of campaign, and was supported to the end. The above came to me well authenticated, and I have no doubt of its correctness."

To this the *New York World* adds what follows: "This is certainly a horrible story. The immolation of 100,000 men to avoid a confession of error on the part of an Administration matches anything in the annals of the most despotic governments on earth. To believe that the long agony which the nation endured in 1864, was borne to make good the blunders of civilians, involves so much that is revolting that nothing but the reputation of the soldier who vouches for the tale could make us entertain it. General Taylor expressly and significantly says that it came to him on good authority. No authority for such an accusation can be good which is less than that of one of the men directly concerned. President Lincoln was dead before General Taylor came North after the war. Edwin M. Stanton was probably capable of the atrocious calculation charged, but he is not likely ever to have had an opportunity of communicating it to General Taylor. There remains, therefore, but one source from which it could have reached General Taylor. This consideration will make our readers shudder with us at the probability of its truth."

THE EADS JETTIES.—A press despatch reports that Mr. Eads has arrived in Washington, bearing with him the certificate from Captain Brown, of the Engineer Corps stationed at the jetties, which shows that he has produced the required depth of water through the Pass to entitle him to an additional payment of \$500,000. Mr. Eads called on Secretary McCrary, presented his papers, and said he hoped the usual formalities might be dispensed with, so that he could secure a warrant for the amount at once. But the Secretary decided that it would be safer to follow the law strictly and send several experienced members of the Engineer Corps to inspect and report. He therefore commissioned Generals Barnard and Wright, directing them to proceed at once to the jetties and report with all speed possible.

THE NAVY.

RUTHERFORD B. HAYES, *President and Com'dr-in-Chief*
 RICHARD W. THOMPSON, *Secretary of the Navy.*
 JOHN W. HOGG, *Chief Clerk.*

BUREAUS OF THE NAVY DEPARTMENT.
 YARDS AND DOCKS—Rear-Admiral Jno. C. Howell.
 NAVIGATION—Rear-Admiral Daniel Ammen.
 EQUIPMENT AND RECRUITING—Commodore R. W. Shufeldt.
 ORDONANCE—Commodore Wm. N. Jeffers.
 MEDICINE AND SURGERY—Surgeon-General Wm. Grier.
 PROVISIONS AND CLOTHING—P. M. G. Geo. F. Cutter.
 STEAM ENGINEERING—Eng. in Chief Wm. H. Shock.
 CONSTRUCTION AND REPAIR—Chief Constructor John W. Easby.
FLAG OFFICERS AFLOAT.
 EUROPEAN STATION—Rear-Admiral W. E. Le Roy.
 ASIATIC STATION—Rear-Admiral T. H. Patterson.
 NORTH PACIFIC—Rear-Admiral Alex. Murray.
 SOUTH PACIFIC—Rear-Admiral Geo. H. Preble.
 SOUTH ATLANTIC—Commodore Edw. T. Nichols.
 NORTH ATLANTIC—Rear-Admiral S. D. Trenchard.
FLAG OFFICERS ON SHORE DUTY.
 NAVAL OBSERVATORY—Rear-Admiral John Rodgers, Supt.
 NAVAL ASTRUM, PHILADELPHIA—Rear-Admiral J. R. M. Mullany.
 NAVAL ACADEMY—Rear-Admiral C. R. P. Rodgers.
COMMANDANTS NAVY YARDS.
 Commodore R. R. Colhoun, Navy-yard, Mare Island.
 Commodore Foxhall A. Parker, Boston, Mass.
 Commodore J. W. A. Nicholson, New York.
 Commodore John C. Feibiger, Washington, D. C.
 Commodore J. Binkley Creighton, Norfolk, Va.
 Commodore Peirce Crosby, League Island, Penn.
 Commodore John Guest, Portsmouth, N. H.
 Captain George E. Belknap, Pensacola, Fla.
 Commodore D. McNeill Fairfax, New London.

THE COURSE OF THE HURON.

To the Editor of the Army and Navy Journal:

SIR: In your issue of December 15 you make a gross error in regard to the bearing of Bodie's Island Light-house, which you state is S. 18 deg. E. from the point of departure given by Ensign Young, of the *Huron*. Coast Survey chart No. 10, which was probably the chart used by the comdg. officer and navigator of the *Huron*, places Bodie's Island Light-house S. by E. $\frac{1}{2}$ E. from Cape Henry Light-house, distant seventy miles. From the point of departure, given by Ensign Young, Cape Henry Light-house bearing W. by S., distant about five miles, the course S. by E. $\frac{1}{2}$ E., would, if made good, take the ship at least nine miles off shore when passing Bodie's Island Light-house, and in clear weather, was a perfectly safe course to have given. Hydrographic Office chart No. 238 gives the same results as Coast Survey chart No. 10. While officers of the Navy do not object to just criticism, they do object to those that are manifestly unjust. It is to be regretted that after your attention had been called by "Commander" to the inaccuracies of a former criticism, you did not at least satisfy yourself of the truth of your assertions before scattering them broadcast to the world.

In conclusion, I would suggest that, in order to make your journal be, what you claim it is, "devoted to the interests of the Army and Navy," you should give more time to the careful preparation of data for your editorials, or they will be a good reason why officers should not subscribe to your paper, in contradistinction to the reasons you advance why officers should subscribe. J. MCG.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 17, 1877.

We explained last week how the error to which attention was called occurred, but did not think it necessary to publish this letter entire. As the author has the mistaken impression that we were actuated by some malign purpose in withholding it, we give space to it this week. As to the last paragraph we need only say that we have full confidence that the officers of the Navy are sufficiently intelligent to judge for themselves whether the ARMY AND NAVY JOURNAL means to deal with them fairly or not.

We also publish the following letter, which is written in a somewhat better spirit, as we are unwilling to have it supposed that we could, in such a case as this, contend merely for victory. The Court of Inquiry has fully justified our main criticism, and as to the rest we may say that the data for our editorials was prepared by a naval officer who is the superior of either of our critics in length of service and experience at sea. This cannot determine a question of fact, but it is well that it should be remembered when we are criticised for undue haste. The error to which attention was called was a clerical one, and with the full opportunity we have given for its correction it can injure no one, except ourselves.—ED. JOURNAL.

To the Editor of the Army and Navy Journal.

SIR: The JOURNAL, in its comments upon the article which it did me the favor to publish in the issue of the 15th inst., has again fallen into a most serious error of fact in its statements about the course steered by the *Huron*. According to the JOURNAL the true course from the position at which the departure was taken to Bodie's Island Light is south 18 deg. east; which is said to coincide nearly with the course, S. by E. $\frac{1}{2}$ E. (S. 19 $\frac{1}{2}$ E.), given by Messrs. Conway and Young.

Now the true course, taken from the Coast Survey Chart, between the two points named is not S. 18 deg. E., but S. 14 deg. E. The JOURNAL then says the ship was nearly on the line of no variation. This again is a mistake. The *Huron* was on the line of 24 deg. westerly variation, a correction to be applied to the left; that is, additive to the degrees, 19 $\frac{1}{2}$, above mentioned, thus giving, for the ship's true course, S. 22 deg. E., a divergence of 8 deg. from the course to Bodie Island Light; and this without any allowance

for local deviation of the *Huron's* standard compass which, up to the time of my latest information, was also westerly.

Now a ship steering S. 23 deg. E. would, after running 73 miles, find herself 8 miles further east, or off shore, than if she had steered S. 14 deg. E.

Thus, without applying the local deviation, falls to the ground the JOURNAL's summing up: "If this statement (the JOURNAL's) of the course be correctly given, it would appear that here was a ship with an offing of only five miles, on a dark, foggy night, on a dead lee shore, with a strong gale blowing, steering a course which, even with a smooth sea and pleasant weather, at a speed of only six knots an hour would have put her high and dry in about twelve hours from the time of taking the departure."

Mr. Editor, we are all liable to make mistakes; but pardon me if I say that when making such a severe, ruthless criticism as the JOURNAL has made upon a man who can never more speak for himself, one has no right to make such a grave and circumstantial error.

COMMANDER U. S. N.

VARIOUS NAVAL ITEMS.

THE *Monongahela* was at Alexandria, Nov. 27, en route to Asia.

THE *Tallapoosa* arrived at Philadelphia, Dec. 20, en route East.

THE revenue marine cadets on board the United States revenue cutter, *J. C. Dobson*, at New Bedford, have been granted two weeks' leave of absence.

THE *Lackawanna*, at Mare Island, will be put out of commission as soon as the *Tuscarora* goes into commission, which will be early in January.

ASST. ENGINEER CLARENCE A. STRANGE, U. S. N., died at the Naval Hospital, Norfolk, December 13. He had been attached to the monitor, *Lehigh*, in James River.

THE keeper of the Life Saving Station at Kitty Hawk informs the Chief Signal Officer that the dead body of a white man was found seven miles north of Station No. 5, December 19, and buried.

A SUB COMMITTEE of the House Committee on Indian Affairs has decided to favor a bill allowing the civilized tribes of Indian Territory to elect a delegate to Congress, in the same manner as other territories.

ORDERS were sent out about ten days ago to Rear-Admiral Patterson, directing him as soon after the receipt thereof as the *Tennessee* was ready, to let that vessel come home. She will, therefore, probably leave about the 1st of February.

THE order of the Navy Department for the holidays this season, is the same as for several seasons past. The building is closed on Christmas and New Year's days. During the intervening days it is closed at 12 o'clock, with one half of force present, unless there is an actual necessity for greater attendance.

THE *Marion* arrived at Nice, Dec. 9. It is thought that, in the interests of economy, the *Marion* will be docked, either at Toulon or Marseilles, as she has been about four years in the water, and her hull is so coated with incrustations as to considerably reduce her speed. After the vessel is docked, and slight repairs executed to the machinery, the *Marion* will probably return to the East. This vessel reflects great credit on her personnel for the efficiency which has been maintained, during her constant cruising, whilst she was the only vessel of the Mediterranean fleet.

COMMODORE R. W. SHUFELDT, Chief of the Bureau of Equipment and Recruiting, who has given much attention to the perfection of the Naval apprentice system, will explain its advantages to the Committee on Naval Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives, and recommend the passage of a law authorizing the enlistment of 750 boys annually, or 10 per cent. of the actual number of seamen now allowed to the Navy. The boys now enlisted and undergoing instruction, numbering 470, are included in the 7,500 authorized by law. It is proposed to retain this number of seamen, and in addition thereto enlist 750 boys annually, who will be trained and instructed on the ships designed for that purpose. Should the law be so amended as to authorize the enlistment of 750 boys annually, it is believed that in the course of ten years the whole force of seamen in the Navy will be composed of those who were enlisted under eighteen years of age and properly instructed in seamanship.

REAR-ADMIRAL HENRY WATKES, U. S. N., was recently made the victim of a New York sneak thief, who walked off with \$1,100 which the admiral had taken to the Seaman's Savings Bank to deposit. As he was about to move toward the Receiving Teller's window, for the purpose of handing in the money, he felt a gentle tap on the shoulder. Turning around he was met by a nicely-dressed gentleman, who said, "Pardon me, Sir, but have you not dropped something?" pointing to the floor. The Admiral looked to the floor, and observed something that looked like a bank bill. Being near-sighted, he stooped quite low and groped after the object. Finally he secured it, observed that it was a worthless piece of green paper, and rose up. He turned to meet the stranger and have a good laugh with him over the mistake, but the stranger was gone. Suspecting nothing, the Admiral turned leisurely around to the little desk on which he had left his pocket and deposit books. He

put the first away, and went over to the Teller's window with the other, when he discovered that the \$1,100 had been withdrawn, evidently by the polite stranger.

In a letter addressed, Dec. 5, to Surg. Gen. James C. Palmer, U. S. Navy, Secretary Thompson says: "It would be unbecoming in me to intrude upon the domestic privacy of yourself and family, when I know that your hearts are torn with terrible affliction, were it not that my official relation to your dear son will justify me in tendering to you my heartfelt condolence at the sad bereavement with which you have been visited. His official character was above reproach. His manly and honorable deportment was always such as to commend him to the highest consideration of the Navy Department, and all his official associates. His devotion to duty gave the amplest assurance of rapid promotion and future usefulness in the Service. And it gives me pleasure to add that his private virtues, mellowed by the emotions of a kind heart and generous nature, were universally recognized by his many friends. Under these circumstances I cannot refrain from communicating to you, in this form, the high appreciation in which he was held by this Department, and to assure you of the sympathy of all its officers. And I hope you will permit me to say that, although the highest personal and official merit is not sufficient to ward off the shaft of death, yet when it finds its victims standing courageously at the post of duty, we have the consolation left that that a kind Providence is never forgetful of individual merit, and, even while it afflicts, reminds us that the treasure of divine love is inexhaustible."

THE following is the text of an act relative to the burial of the officers and others, of the United States Navy, who perished by the wreck of the United States steamer *Huron*, and for other purposes, which was approved and became a law December 15, 1877: "Be it enacted, etc. That the Secretary of the Navy be, and he is hereby authorized, at such time as in his discretion may be proper, to have removed to the Naval Cemetery, at Annapolis, Maryland, and have buried there, the remains of the officers and others who perished by the wreck of the United States steamer *Huron*, on the 23rd of November, 1877, and which have been, or may hereafter be, buried on the coast of North Carolina. *Provided*, That the relatives of any such deceased officers and others who prefer that the remains of such be taken to their homes within the United States shall have such privilege extended to them, and the expense thereof shall be borne by the United States. *And provided further*, That the expense of removal, incurred by the relatives of those whose bodies have already been removed, shall be reimbursed to them, and the sum of \$6,000, or so much as may be found necessary, is hereby appropriated out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, to carry out the provisions of this act. And the benefit of the provisions of this act as far as applicable is hereby extended to those of the wrecking steamer *B. and J. Baker*, who were lost in the attempt to rescue the crew of the steamer *Huron*. The act for the relief of the sufferers by the wreck, approved Dec. 14, gives to Master Wm. P. Conway, Ensign L. Young, Asst. Eng. R. T. Denig and Cadet Eng. E. T. Waburton, each \$1,000; to the survivors of the crew, \$100 each; relatives of the lost, including Capt. Guthrie, a year's sea pay, and to those lost in the *B. and J. Baker*, \$100 each.

THE subject of accommodation for the enlisted men in our Navy, and the proper ventilation of our vessels, is now before the Navy Department, and a recent examination of the *Suatarra*, *Richmond*, and *Miantonomoh*, representing the several classes of vessels, shows that on the berth deck of the *Suatarra*, that part of the ship occupied by the officers, there is a space of 133 cubic feet per man, and in that part occupied by seamen there is a space of but 58 cubic feet per man. On the *Richmond* the allotted space for officers is 273 cubic feet per man. On the *Miantonomoh* the allotted space for officers is 1,153 cubic feet per man, and for seamen 81 cubic feet per man. Under the laws of Great Britain, 300 cubic feet of space are allotted to each person in the emigrant ships, and in the barracks system of that country 400 cubic feet are allowed to each man. The Chief of the Bureau of Equipment and Recruiting also refers to this subject in his annual report. He says: "I again respectfully ask the attention of the Department to the restricted space allotted to the crews of our ships of war. As a matter of efficiency alone, the health of the men is of primary importance. A ship may be ever so perfect in its construction and armament; she loses her significance as a man-of-war unless manned by a vigorous crew. It is simply impossible to expect men to retain their health if compelled to berth and mess in the dense and mephitic atmosphere which is the natural result of the crowded quarters. Ventilation of our ships has never received the attention it imperatively demands. I respectfully urge upon the Department the propriety of appointing a board of medical officers to report upon this subject, and to devise a method whereby the object may be assured. At present the "sick bay" is thrust at the extreme forward end of a ship, and is eminently well calculated, not only to make a man sick, but to keep him so, from its position—the absence of light and air, and the usual want of the

convenience which a patient requires. I believe that the plan of placing the hospital of a ship in just the place where it ought not to be has been abandoned in every navy but our own." As an instance of the bad effects of crowding men on shipboard, it may be mentioned that, during the trouble between this country and Spain, on account of the *Virginius* affair, when 3,000 additional men were enlisted for the Navy, over 25 per cent. of them were incapacitated for service within a few weeks by reasons of crowding them into vessels.

THE will of Commodore Edw. W. Carpender, formerly of the Navy, is being contested in the Orphans Court of Monmouth County, N. J. The principal ground relied on by the caveators to break the will was the mental incapacity of the testator. Their insistments were, relying upon the evidence for the support thereof, that the old Commodore became a prey to melancholy after the shock of his wife's death, which brought on softening of the brain, from the effects of which he finally died; that his family were predisposed to troubles of this kind; that his brother died in a lunatic asylum, and his mother was affected with disease of the same character; that the Commodore's character, before disease fastened itself upon him, was that of a strong and vigorous-minded man, with faculties unimpaired, bright and keen; that he had the mind of a man accustomed to military discipline, whose special power was to control; that disease transformed him into a man of indecision—one who had no mind or memory of his own; that he brooded over his loss till he became a sort of monomaniac, and even thought his dead wife stood at his elbow, prompting him how to dispose of his property. Heretofore tidy and cleanly in his dress, the personification of neatness, he became very loose and careless about it, and when remonstrated with brought his soiled clothes and threw them on the dining table. His thoughts were so wandering and scattering and inconsecutive that during a heated political contest he could not remember the names of the candidates of either party. Hayes and Tilden were equally obscure. He forgot his neighbors and would pass them by with a vacant stare. He wanted to pay debts over a second time, and it is held that most men are satisfied with paying them once. Commodore Carpender left no children to inherit his \$20,000, but he left a maiden sister, Miss Sarah C. Carpender, a resident of New York City, to whom he bequeathed the interest of his entire estate during her lifetime, and at her death \$5,000 to be divided equally between the nine children of John Y. Mason, his old friend, and the remainder to be distributed in equal portions among the Wilkinson family, brothers and sisters of Commodore Carpender's late wife. Besides these provisions he willed \$600 a year for the education of his niece, Miss Alice Wilkinson, till she became eighteen years of age.

"AN Engineer, U. S. N." writes to the London *Engineer* of December 7, to controvert the statements of a writer in a previous number, who spoke disparagingly of the social status of the engineer corps of our Navy. He says: "In adopting the system now in successful operation in the United States Navy, it was not intended that engineer officers should perform the manual labor of the engine-room—for which, it is asserted, the engineer graduates of the Naval Academy entertain 'hatred and disgust.' It is certainly essential that they should possess the mechanical skill necessary for superintending this labor, and even sufficient for executing it themselves, should unusual circumstances require. Equally is it important that the young officers of the line should be competent to perform the duties pertaining to the station of a seaman. Recognizing these facts, the course of study, drills, and practical exercises at the Naval Academy, on the practice cruises, and during the two years' service at sea subsequent to graduation and prior to receiving commissions, are arranged with a special view to securing such a class of officers. Seamanship and gunnery drills are a part of the training of cadet midshipmen; and cadet engineers work at the forge, and in the fitting, boiler-making, and copper-smithing shops, and are exercised in the management and care of marine engines and boilers." Closing, the writer declares that "the machinery of American vessels has been well cared for, whilst the notorious incapacity of the horny-fisted engineers, and consequent breakage of English engines, caused the Admiralty to resort to the very course 'H. M. N.' condemns."

NAVY GAZETTE.

REGULAR NAVAL SERVICE

ORDERED.

DECEMBER 20.—Medical Director Jacob S. Dungan, to report for duty at the Naval Rendezvous, San Francisco, in addition to his present duties.

DECEMBER 21.—Commander Gilbert C. Wilcox, to duty as equipment officer at the Navy-yard, New York, on the 1st Jan.

Lieutenant-Commander Frank Wildes, to special ordnance duty at Cold Spring, New York, on the 1st January.

Captain G. C. Badger, to hold himself in readiness for the command of the Constitution.

Pay Director James Fulton, as Inspector of provisions and clothing at the Navy-yard, Mare Island, Cal., on the 15th Jan.

DECEMBER 22.—Gunner Cecil C. Nell, to the Navy-yard, Pensacola, Fla., on 1st January.

DETACHED.

DECEMBER 21.—Commander Milton Haxius, from the command of the Despatch, European Station, on the reporting of his relief, and ordered to return home and report arrival.

Commander F. J. Higginson, from special ordnance duty at Cold Spring, New York, and ordered to command the Despatch, European Station, per steamer of 9th January, from Philadelphia.

Commander Charles L. Huntington, from equipment duty at the Navy-yard, New York, on the 1st January, and placed on waiting orders.

Lieutenant B. H. Buckingham, from ordnance duty at the

Navy-yard, Washington, on the 31st December, and ordered to report to U. S. Commissioner E. C. McCormick for special duty under his direction in connection with the Paris Exposition.

Pay Inspector Caspar Schenck, as Inspector of provisions and clothing at the Navy-yard, Mare Island, on the 15th January, and ordered to settle accounts.

DECEMBER 22.—Gunner Joseph Swift, from the Navy-yard, New York, on the 31st December, and ordered to the Constitution.

Gunner G. W. Omensetter, from the Constitution on the 1st January, and placed on waiting orders.

Gunner Charles B. Magruder, from the Navy-yard, Pensacola, on the 1st January, and ordered to hold himself in readiness for sea service.

DECEMBER 23.—Ensign H. F. Reich, from the Naval Academy, and placed on waiting orders.

LIST OF DEATHS

In the Navy of the United States, which have been reported to the Surgeon-General for the week ending December 26, 1877:

Thomas E. Muse, ensign, December 9, Bryan, Brazos county, Texas.

Charles Conley, marine, November 30, U. S. S. Kearsarge.

Clarence A. Strange, assistant engineer, December 13, Naval Hospital, Norfolk.

Gustave Alfcat, marine, November 29, U. S. S. Wyoming, at Washington, D. C.

Theodore Mussman, beneficiary, December 19, Naval Hospital, Philadelphia.

NAVAL BUREAU OF ORDNANCE.

REPORT OF COMMODORE WM. N. JEFFERS, CHIEF BUREAU ORDNANCE NAVY DEPARTMENT.

Hon. R. W. Thompson, Secretary of the Navy.

SIR: I have the honor to submit the annual report of this Bureau with accompanying detailed estimates for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1879.

These estimates have been revised and reduced to the smallest sum consistent with efficient current service, and with no provision for replacing our obsolete armament of smooth bores with rifled cannon.

ESTIMATES.

| | |
|--|-----------|
| 1st. Labor, tools, materials and fuel used in fitting ships for service, and preservation of ordnance and ordnance stores..... | \$372,658 |
| 2d. Repairs to buildings, magazines, wharves, gun parks, tugs, lighters, and books..... | 89,177 |
| 3d. Torpedo service..... | 171,551 |
| Civil establishment at Navy-yards..... | 11,886 |
| | \$645,272 |

A supplementary estimate is submitted for rifled cannon, their carriages, powder, and projectiles for batteries of ships and for armament of five double turreted monitors now building.

The first item is somewhat greater than the amount estimated for last year, because the stock of materials on hand has been gradually expended and worn out in service, and wooden carriages need replacing with iron ones; but while estimating as above for the current service, in order to keep pace with modern and well-established principles in the armament of our ships this sum should be doubled.

The sum of \$89,177, estimated for repairs, is most urgently required.

The magazines, wharves, etc., are necessarily placed in exposed situations and require constant repair. The necessity of repairing the bulkhead surrounding the ordnance dock at New York, has been for several years pressed on the attention of Congress, and, as no appropriation has been made, slight defects have become very serious ones, and this valuable property is not only liable to great damage, but also the harbor of New York to great injury, by washing the filling into East river.

At the Norfolk station a small appropriation two years ago enabled me to place everything in good condition.

At all the other stations, damage by storms and decay from ravages of worms and rot, make the estimated repairs essential.

TORPEDOES.

With our very small force of ships and great extent of coast, the development of the torpedo service becomes of paramount importance. As much of the equipment can be improvised, an attacking or blockading force can be much disquieted if not destroyed by very simple means directed by brave and skillful officers.

Certain portions of the apparatus require time for their preparation, cannot be readily obtained, and careful test and practice in the use of the apparatus are necessary to give confidence to the officer who undertakes the hazardous operation of attacking a large vessel, or of defending his own from a pigmy foe.

It is probable that the limited use of torpedoes in the war now in progress, is due to a want of confidence as well as of the skill obtained by practice.

The torpedo station at Newport, R. I., with its efficient commandant and instructors turns out every year a well-instructed class of officers; but the force and means of instruction should be increased to such an extent as to admit of a rapid expansion if a necessity should occur.

Commandants Selfridge, Bunce and Norton attended the course of instruction the past season; and it is to be expected that their example will be followed by others who are unwilling to remain unable to judge of the value of this efficient auxiliary for want of experimental knowledge.

CONVERSION OF SMOOTH BORE CANNON TO RIFLED.

Ten XI. inch smooth bores have been finished, and twenty are in progress of conversion to 8 inch M. L. rifles by the approved method of lining with a wrought iron tube. This conversion adds twenty-five per cent. to the power of the gun at the muzzle, and doubles it at 1,000 yards. The increased recoil required alterations in the carriage for its efficient control, which have been devised and answer well the purpose.

Ten 100 pounder M. L. Parrott rifles are being converted to breech-loaders for the armament of our narrow beam sloops, on the blotted screw principle,

commonly known as the French closure, although an American device.

RIFLED CANNON.

The sole object of a vessel of war is to make an exhibition of force when needed. Therefore, her armament should be of the most approved type for a vessel of her class. In the era of wooden ships and smooth bore cannon our vessels were but a little superior to those of any other nation. During the past fifteen years a great advance has been made abroad, while we have remained nearly stationary. But the rifled cannon having passed the experimental stage is now adopted by all the maritime powers as the sole armament. Therefore, if we are to maintain a Navy we must adopt the rifle cannon, or in the event of collision be forced to an unequal contest. There are several approved types of both breech and muzzle-loaders from which we can select the one most suitable without any great cost of experiment.

The sum of \$762,500 is estimated as necessary for this purpose, and not less than a year would be required after an appropriation should be made before the first gun could be delivered.

During the past fiscal year the appropriation has been too small to permit any experimental investigation. Such incidental trials of fuzes and projectiles have been made as occurred in the test of current manufactures.

A small estimate is submitted, as without experiment, meritorious inventions are not developed and planable ones accepted.

A number of reports of value to the Navy are appended. I am, etc.,

WILLIAM N. JEFFERS, Chief of Bureau.

(From the Broad Arrow.)

THE AMERICAN NAVY.

THE United States Government has been at last seriously turning its attention to the condition of the National Navy, and we Old World critics should be disposed to say, Not before it was necessary. It probably never before happened, that a country possessing such enormous commercial interests, and such a large and magnificent fleet of merchant ships, was content to remain year after year with scarcely the semblance of a war ship, certainly without a fleet of fighting ships that would be able to hold its own even against many a third-rate European Power. It might have been supposed that during the Civil War the United States would have learnt the lesson, that to defend such a coast-line as she possesses she must have in her Navy something better than the small gunboats and tiny monitors with which she unsuccessfully endeavored to maintain the blockade of the Southern ports.

The secret of the inaction of the Federal Government in this matter has been, however, at last brought to light. Very wisely, the United States despatched an intelligent and penetrating officer, two or three years ago, to Europe to make investigations into the condition of the navies of other countries, and to report the result of his observations, and what steps his Government ought to take to procure an efficient naval force. Our readers will remember that recently we gave extracts at some length from this report, the conclusion of which must be, we imagine, reassuring to the American public. Mr. King, the Chief Engineer of the United States Navy, not only approves the policy hitherto pursued by his Government, but he even recommends them still to follow the same course. He argues that if during all these years of inaction and stagnation, they had gone on building ships of war, they would by this time not only have spent a great deal of money, but they would have had now a large number of obsolete and ineffective ships, whereas now they have had the benefit of the experience purchased at great cost by other nations. Even now, inasmuch as the perfect type of fighting-ship does not yet appear to have been determined in Europe, he advises the United States to wait before building ships which will be out of date as soon as they are completed.

Mr. King seems to overlook the old adage that "half a loaf is better than no bread," and fails to perceive that even these obsolete and effete ships which European Powers have been building during the last ten or fifteen years, might be a serious inconvenience, and even a source of considerable danger, to a country which had nothing at all in the shape of a sea-going navy. Navies, moreover, of the most perfect type, are not constructed in a few weeks, even by a Government possessing the resources and unlimited energy of the United States, and, though it is well to learn by the experience and the blunders of other folks, it is sometimes quite worth while to pay a premium for experience on one's own account.

QUARTERMASTER WILLIAM CHADWICK, of the United States Navy, who lost his life in the wreck of the steamer *Huron*, was buried Christmas afternoon from the residence of his brother in law, Frederick W. Emerson, No. 351 Franklin avenue, near Prospect Park, Brooklyn. The exercises at the residence were conducted by the Rev. Mr. Halsey, who spoke in high terms of the character of the dead officer, who in an experience of over twenty-six years in the naval service of his country, had never once been charged with dereliction of duty. On shore and on sea he had borne the same reputation for a faithful discharge of all the responsibilities of his life. After a long and honorable career he had died at his post, and his death could bring no blush for misapprehension to the cheeks of his surviving friends. A very large circle of friends and relatives filled the house and listened to the remarks of the officiating clergyman, afterward following the body to a grave in Greenwood.

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ALFRED ROSE, ABOUT 30 YEARS OF AGE, ABOUT 5 FT. 5 inches in height, dark hair and dark eyes, who in the year 1874 was a private in Company A, 5th U. S. Infantry, Capt. Jas. S. Casey, commanding, at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, has, by the death of a relative, become entitled to some property. He will please communicate in reference to the same to Mr. ALFRED ENGLISH, care F. C. HANE & Co., 92 Greene St., N. Y. City.

Or any person furnishing information of his whereabouts will be suitably rewarded.

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Mr. MCGAHAN, the correspondent of the London *Daily News* at Plevna, sends a terrible story of the state of things prevailing in and around the captured town. Famished dogs and unclean birds were feeding on the corpses of the dead and the bodies of the still living wounded. The savage howls of the greedy brutes as they tore the putrid flesh of the dead or crunched the bones between their teeth, the cries and groans of the wounded as they vainly struggled with the dogs might be heard for miles around and made the soul sick. Some of the wounded were able to crawl about and clutched at odd morsels of food that were found in the hands of the dead, devouring it with feverish avidity; but thousands of them were utterly helpless and awaited death or succor with a listless fatalism. Eighteen hundred prisoners were huddled together on the bank of the Vid, and living and dead were piled together promiscuously in heaps like wood, and carted away. There were only three carts available for this work, and the confusion was indescribable. Osman's gallant defence of Plevna for a moment blinded the victors and Europe to the fact that all prisoners were butchered by the troops under Osman's command. The Bucharest correspondent of the *Herald* says that a fearful retribution has overtaken a part of Osman's army which was caught on the march by that dreadful snow storm. Fate seems to be wreaking vengeance for the slaughter of the Russian wounded, whose corpses lie unburied on the hills around Plevna.

The widow of General Custer is living in New York on the small pension and her wages as secretary of the Ladies' Decorative Art Association of New York.

U. S. ARMY AND NAVY JOURNAL.

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ENGLAND AND THE EAST.

SERBIA'S capture of Ap-Alanka, her beginning of the bombardment of Nisch, the setting in of the snows among the Balkans, and the carrying away of the Ibrail bridge by the ice, are the week's chief items of Eastern war news. Though all of these minor details would be enough, in lack of greater themes, to point suggestions upon the winter's campaign, they are trivial compared with the greater question of possible English participation in the war.

From some of the prophets come very decided vaticinations that England will soon cross the Rubicon, whose bank she has hitherto kept within sight, but at a respectful distance. It is declared that the premature assembling of Parliament is designed to obtain from the House of Commons an extraordinary grant for military and naval purposes; that vast preparations for war are now quietly going on—guns put aboard the ironclads, shoes contracted for in enormous numbers, orders given at the Royal Arsenal for field pieces, and a great accumulation of stores made in the Mediterranean.

For ourselves, we have yet to see the first decisive indication that England's policy is to be any other than a peace policy. The anticipation of the usual period for the meeting of Parliament seems to us an indication that the government wishes to avoid, rather than incur, the responsibility which a warlike policy would provoke. If the government be meditating any decisive step which requires it to take the opinion of Parliament, or to obtain Parliamentary sanction, this is likelier to be a mercantile than a military one. A former Emperor of Russia is credited with offering England a share in the partition of Turkey; but the present Emperor never has repeated the rejected offer, so that presumably whatever England wants in that way she must buy. Should Parliament be asked to sanction the purchase of the Khedive's remaining interest in the Suez Canal, and of the Porte's suzerainty over Egypt, this would be a question of trade rather than war.

Again, the accumulation of large stocks of non-perishable military and naval supplies in Gibraltar and Malta can hardly be considered a warlike act. They are as safe there from the combined fleets and armies of Russia, Germany, and Italy, as they would be in England itself. The fierce resumption of artillery experiments at Shoeburyness, though it may make talk for the quidnuncs, hardly rises to the rank of belligerent preparation. Giving orders for renewed activity at the arsenals and dockyards cannot fairly be censured even as an act of braggadocio or of bluff; and contracting for a million pairs of the always necessary article of shoes, with a large margin, if required, for times of delivery, can only in a metaphor-

ical sense be styled putting the troops on a war footing.

The division of sentiment in Great Britain is also an assurance of peace. Should war be undertaken, the house would no longer be seriously divided against itself; but at present, while the Turcophiles probably have a clear majority in the nation, the Russophiles are also exceedingly strong, carrying a large part of the Liberal party with them, and being also reinforced by many religious people, who look upon the struggle in the South-east as one not so much between Czar and Sultan as between Cross and Crescent—an ecclesiastical rather than an imperial grapple, whose progress is to be studied less under the light of JOMINI than of JEREMIAH, and whose issue is determinable less by the books of tactics than by the Book of Revelation. As any war policy of England would be pro-Turkish, the great body of Turcophobists are gradually becoming a party which supports peace on general principles.

A very decisive peace influence in the councils of England is her inability to procure a valuable alliance for intervention against the further progress of the Russian arms. Lord DERBY has publicly declared that Austria cannot be counted on for this purpose; and one obvious function of Germany in the present struggle has been to quietly checkmate Austria—to see that Austria keeps her hands off. Englishmen seem just now to be in doubt whether a further function of Germany may not be to checkmate England, by announcing at the appropriate moment, that if England enters the lists against Russia, Germany will take the field with Russia. As for Italy, her subjection to Berlin influence is so marked, that, despite the fact of Sardinia being one of the allies against Russia in 1854, she can be at any moment counted upon for an alliance with Germany in favor of Russia, in 1878. England has a wholesome fear of Germany, quite unlike anything which she feels in regard to any other power on the globe. The invasion of France, in 1870, appealed most powerfully to English judgment of what is superb and resistless in military strength and skill, and left an ineffaceable dread of undertaking a war so bloody and costly as one with Germany would prove, so long as the new empire is ruled in camp and cabinet by those twin "bolts of war," BISMARCK and MOLTKE.

England, too, would probably be, in any new Eastern war, without the aid of her old Crimean ally. Some Englishmen now regret the extent to which the subjugation of France was carried by Germany, through the absence of intervention on the part of the neutral Powers. It is a question whether the old continental balance of power created after the fall of NAPOLEON I., did not perish on the field of Sadowa; but if it survived that field, there is little question that it crumbled at Sedan. Some sagacious observers foresaw, at the taking of Paris, that England had lost, in France, an ally against Russian aggression, without gaining another in Germany; but most of them in those days were in that state of feeling which was rather bestially expressed by one critic of high authority in these words: "There is no doubt that in both countries England is at present regarded with an angry contempt, unconsciously tinged with envy. The satisfaction with which the epicurean poet regarded from the shore the labors of the sea-tossed sailor is naturally not reciprocal." There is now, however, less equanimity in reference to England's relations with those two countries. It has been said that the government of France was very lately sounded by the English cabinet as to its desire to interfere in the Eastern question, and that the response was against interference. It is highly probable that this alleged reply represents the feeling of the French government. That government has too serious a domestic complication on hand, to be greatly interested in foreign politics; and the French nation is too sick of war, and too conscious of imperfect ability to carry it on under the inspirations of military genius, to rashly undertake it for the mere sake of befriending a Power which kept aloof from France in her hour of distress. President MACMAHON might find in a brilliant foreign war some relief and distraction from home troubles, and might fairly hope, in rallying all France under the common cry of country and glory, to turn public attention away from a political quarrel in which every day he is worse and worse beaten. But the difference between the France of 1854 and the

France of 1878, is that, as the latter is a republic, it now requires a popular wish, in place of an autocratic fiat, to support a foreign war. The people of France seem to have been happily cured, for the time, of their mania for pure military glory, not based on a better motive, and the apathy of the nation to affairs on the Black Sea is most striking and suggestive. Besides, France has not at all England's motive for fearing or hating Russia. Until the community of interests between that empire and Germany was clearly established, France never ceased to hope for an alliance with Russia against the despoilers of Alsace and Lorraine. A Franco-Russian alliance was her constant hope during the war of 1870-71, and her talk for years after that war. France and Russia touch each other nowhere on the globe; in commercial, colonial, military, naval questions, they have been and are as little rivals as are Russia and America. Even in the Crimean war the French fought for glory rather than gain. What was the neutralization of the Black Sea to France? She had no India to guard. Her possessions in Cochin China do not make her an Asiatic power. She fought for military prestige in the Crimean war, without any intense popular hatred for Russia, and the feeling of her people is by no means Turkish now. Thus every motive to which England could appeal is gone. Besides, a revival of the old Anglo-French alliance would at once precipitate the triple alliance of Russia, Germany, and Italy, which would leave England no better off than now. England would lose more than she gained, in securing the open hostility of Germany as the price of the friendship of France.

Such seem to us some of the peace influences which will control the conduct of England, independently of her prudent desire to bear the ills she has rather than to fly to others that she knows not of. Only a course of continued conquest on the part of Russia that we cannot now presume could conceivably force England into war; nor do we now see any stipulation of peace which Russia is likely to demand and Turkey to concede, that would cause England to take up arms for Turkey, in order to procure its rejection.

HEALTH OF THE NAVY.

SURGEON GENERAL GRIER, Chief of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, Navy Department, reports that the various squadrons and naval stations have been supplied with everything requisite, during the past year, for the treatment and comfort of the sick. The health of the Navy has been good, and no pestilential or epidemic disease has prevailed. The mortality has been less than the usual average.

A tour of inspection during the summer was made to the principal hospitals, and also, for the purpose of comparison, to some of the civil hospitals of the country. The management of the Navy hospitals was found to be satisfactory—the officers in charge having done all that was possible with the means at their disposal. All these establishments presented evidence, more or less, of the parsimony which has of late years been a necessity, in consequence of insufficient appropriations. While the sick have not been deprived of anything indispensable to their comfort and proper treatment, the furniture, the buildings and the grounds surrounding them, convey the impression that they are not maintained with the liberality which should characterize establishments belonging to the nation. In these respects they do not compare favorably with many State and municipal institutions of similar character, or even with some of those which are supplied solely by the benevolence of private individuals. The hospitals at Chelsea, Brooklyn, Philadelphia, Washington, and Annapolis, require repainting and other repairs: that at Norfolk requires very extensive repairs and improvements—for which estimates are submitted. The hospital at Mare Island receives a large number of patients from the Pacific and Atlantic stations. As the officer in charge necessarily occupies quarters in the hospital which are needed for the sick, an estimate for a house, to be built on the hospital grounds for that officer, is submitted.

There are no proper buildings for the sick at Pensacola. A building of moderate dimensions is recommended to be constructed on Seavey's Island, Portsmouth, N. H., for hospital purposes. A suggestion is made for the purchase of the ground on which there are some small dwellings near the hospital at Yokohama, that expose it to danger in case of fire. The hospital at Annapolis was closed in 1876, but was temporarily opened in April and May of the present year for the reception of cadets affected with measles. Its

use on this occasion was a proof of its value in such emergencies. The abandonment of the out-buildings used for small pox patients, is suggested, as they are much out of repair, and it would be more economical to send such patients to the local hospitals provided for that disease by the civil authorities.

Since 1861 the hospital establishment has been increased by the addition of hospitals at Philadelphia, Annapolis, Washington, Mare Island, and Yokohama, thus nearly doubling the expenses, while the hospital fund which supports them has diminished in a still greater proportion, due partly to large expenditures in building and furnishing, and partly to the additional expense of supporting a greater number of hospitals, while something is due to the high prices of provisions during the past ten years. The expense of keeping these large establishments open, is almost as great with a small as with a large number of patients, as a certain number of attendants is necessary to keep them in order, while the cost of heating, repairs, etc., is about the same.

The hospital fund in 1868 amounted to \$436,592.59—due to the accumulations of the several years during which so many men were employed. Since then it has rapidly diminished, the amounts to its credit being as follows: July, 1869, \$394,660.09; 1870, \$384,758.23; 1871, \$300,515.63; 1872, \$100,597.65; 1873, \$56,534.70; 1874, \$26,583.94; 1875, \$1,141.37; 1876, \$290.92; 1877, \$70.63. There is due to it from "pay of the Navy" \$50,000; Marine Corps, \$30,000; surgeons' necessities and appliances, \$52,975.17. If these sums be obtained they will be sufficient to meet the expenses of the current year. Thereafter an annual appropriation of from \$90,000 to \$100,000 will be required. The present income from contributions of persons in the naval service amounts to about \$37,000 a year—not more than enough to support one of the larger hospitals. There is no authority of law for supplying the families of officers with medicines, but it has been sanctioned by custom and the tacit approval of the Department. The sum necessary for this purpose is about \$3,000, for which an appropriation is submitted.

The number of assistant surgeons allowed by law is now for the first time since 1865 nearly complete, and will probably be entirely so by the end of the year. There are now 23 acting assistant surgeons, appointed to supply the deficiency in the regular corps. A revocation or modification of the order requiring assistant surgeons to serve two years at sea is recommended, as it is difficult of execution within the three years when the law entitles them to promotion, owing to the few ships in commission. The regulations of 1876 place assistant surgeons of the relative rank of ensign in the steerage. They have enjoyed the privileges of the ward room for a period of more than 30 years, and the same reasons which caused their admission to the ward room still exist. The law of March 3, 1871, provides that "no staff officer shall in virtue of his relative rank or precedence have any additional right to quarters." A fair inference from that proviso seems to be, that while it conferred no additional rights it recognized and confirmed those already existing.

In view of the deficiency of persons entering the Medical Corps in their education or instruction in hygiene, chemical manipulation and microscopy, it is recommended that assistant surgeons be ordered, some months previous to their examination for promotion, to the hospital at New York for instruction in those branches, as the naval laboratory and the hospital grounds afford facilities for chemical study not otherwise attainable without considerable expense. The large civil hospitals of the city would also be within reach.

A permanent corps of apothecaries is very desirable. They should be appointed by warrant, or otherwise, by the Secretary of the Navy, after examination and approval by a board of officers; they should have rank and suitable quarters on ship-board, and not live and mess on the berth deck.

Instruments and instructions for hygrometric and endiometric observations on board ships in commission have been prepared in accordance with the Department's directions, and are being issued, and great benefit will doubtless be derived therefrom. Sufficient matter for the publication of another volume of medical and sanitary reports of the Navy has accumulated. A report of surgical casualties in the Navy from 1860 to 1870 is also ready for publication. Legislation necessary for the publication of these works is much desired. A new book of "Instructions to Medical Officers" will soon be completed.

Accompanying the Surgeon-General's report are summary statements of the death rate and comparative health of the various squadrons for the years 1865 to 1876 inclusive.

APPROPOS of the Mexican question the *New York World* says: "It would be amusing, if there were no perils to the public peace involved in it, to watch the desperate effort which some American politicians and not a few American newspapers are making to persuade themselves that the Mexican question can be understood without understanding the Mexican character, and settled without studying the political situation in Mexico. It is really true, we are sorry to say, that a good many Americans of more than ordinary intelligence in regard to other matters seem to find it absolutely impossible to get the notion into their heads that the United States are regarded as an upstart nation by the descendants of the great European race which first discovered and occupied the New World. We have done little of late years to show that we take any interest in our national influence and reputation, and little to prove that our Government really represents a strong and united people. This may be safe or it may not, in the immediate neighborhood of hostile populations irritated by our progress in wealth, and indisposed to concede to us any consideration not extorted from them by a belief in our superior power and in our disposition to assert our national rights and to protect our citizens."

On Monday morning, Dec. 24, Capt. Robert P. Parrott, the famous inventor of the guns and projectiles that bear his name, died of heart disease at his residence in Cold Spring, New York, at the age of 73. Capt. Parrott was born in New Hampshire, and from that State was appointed to the Military Academy in 1820, in his sixteenth year. He was graduated third among thirty-one, in the class of 1824, and received his promotion as second lieutenant, in the 3d Artillery. During the five years following he served at the Academy, a part of the time as assistant professor of natural philosophy, and a part as assistant professor of mathematics. He then joined his regiment at Fort Constitution, and afterwards at Fort Independence, becoming first lieutenant in 1831. During the years 1834 and 1835 he was engaged in ordnance duty, and the year following served on the staff in the operations against the Creek Indians. The same year, 1836, he became captain of ordnance, and as such was assistant in the Ordnance Bureau at Washington. A few months later he resigned from the Army in order to become the Superintendent of the West Point Iron and Cannon Foundry at Cold Spring. He there originated the Parrott guns and projectiles, first used in service at the battle of Bull Run in July, 1861, and thence very continuously and successfully used throughout the war. His name of course became a household word to the whole country as well as to the Army. Capt. Parrott was the first judge of the Court of Common Pleas for Putnam County, from 1844 to 1847. His inventions and the products of his foundry brought him much wealth, out of which he made some notable public gifts, one being the sum of \$100,000 to the Episcopal Church at Cold Spring.

RECRUITING for the Army is once more resumed, and within a few months it will be filled up to somewhere near the maximum allowed, viz. 25,000 men. The present force is somewhere near 20,000 men, including recruiting parties, ordnance corps, signal service men, scouts, clerks, and enlisted men of all grades and pay. Where Congress will leave it when they get through with it this session no one can say. The chances are, however, that it will continue about as it is as to numbers.

THE Newburgh, N. Y., *Daily Register* reports that a proposition is under consideration by the New York State Society of the Cincinnati to celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of its constitution (May 10, 1883,) by re-erecting prior to that time the temple at New Windsor in which it was organized and formally dedicating it on that day.

THE following circular has been posted in the Treasury Department, under the head "No Vacancies:" "Persons honorably discharged from the Military or Naval Service, by reason of disability or sickness incurred in the line of duty, shall be preferred to appointment for civil office, provided they are found to possess the business capacity necessary for the proper discharge of the duties of such office."

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Editor of the ARMY AND NAVY JOURNAL does not hold himself responsible for individual expressions of opinion in communications published under this head. His purpose is to allow the largest freedom of discussion consistent with propriety and good feeling.

NAVAL UNIFORMS.

To the Editor of the Army and Navy Journal:

SIR: The sensible and well written article of "Norfolk" in your paper of Dec. 22, commends itself to the serious attention of those that have the power to make alterations in uniforms. To let "well enough alone" is what the Navy wants. Naval officers are entirely dependent on their salaries, and those should not be encroached upon by naval and military outfitters and tailors every few months.

If anything is needed, abolish the mongrel shoulder knots of ensigns and substitute the neat and effective strap. Let the knots be worn out on full dress and abolished, say in a year. Why not substitute the scale of the epaulette as in sub-lieutenants of the British navy, and when promotion follows the bulion is added. All officers should wear the cocked hat or chapeau, and not present as on a flagship, particularly officers in full dress with caps, or half and half. The present uniforms are neat, sensible and suggestive. It is generally the case that those who advocate so many changes lack taste and do not know what they want. C. Z.

THE COMPOUND ENGINE.

To the Editor of the Army and Navy Journal:

SIR: Without venturing to take part in the interesting discussion upon the compound engine, supported by Captain Chandler and Chief Engineer Allen, I would like to suggest a point which I think has as yet escaped notice.

As I remember the engines of the *Seatar*, at least after her return from the *Transit* of Venus, although they were economical at full power, at half power they were not.

Now, as a good part of a ship-of-war's steam cruising is at half power, would not the loss here sustained offset the gain when under full power?

Does not the fact that European steamers and merchantmen generally, habitually steam at full power, materially modify any conclusions we might draw from their experience?

W. MCCARTY-LITTLE, Lieut. U. S. Navy.
ORDNANCE OFFICE, NAVY-YARD, N. Y., Dec. 15, '77.

"MR. RAE" CHALLENGED.

To the Editor of the Army and Navy Journal:

SIR: Thomas Rae, late passed assistant engineer, U. S. N., in his late paper comparing the speed of the vessels of the United States Navy with H. B. M. navy puts down the *Omaha* as a twelve knot ship, and further states that the speed of the U. S. vessels has been in all cases established by reference to their log books, and their having made the speed named for twelve consecutive hours. Now I doubt the *Omaha's* ever having made twelve knots per hour under steam alone for twelve consecutive hours, and challenge Mr. Rae to show it by an abstract from the ship's log—not the steam log, which may have failed to record the sail the ship was under. Under both sail and steam, and perhaps under sail alone, she may have averaged twelve knots for twelve hours. Under steam alone at sea, I do not believe she has ever attained that speed under the most favorable circumstances for one hour, or if she has it must have been exceptional, as her two-bladed screw has from 30 to 50 per cent. slip. Her boilers are now so out of repair that she cannot carry full power, but with two-thirds power and the best of Welsh coals, and under the most favorable circumstances of wind and weather, she does not exceed seven or seven and one-half knots, and against a moderate breeze ordinarily averages about five or five and one-half knots. Perhaps with a four-bladed screw she would do better. She is probably the slowest wooden cruising vessel of war under steam on this coast. X. Y. L.

U. S. FLAGSHIP *OMAHA*, CALLAO, Nov. 13, 1877.

TEMPERATURE OF FIRE ROOM.

To the Editor of the Army and Navy Journal:

SIR: In the JOURNAL of November 24 an article entitled "Fighting Under Steam" hardly does justice to the question of hot fire rooms. It was said by a member of the British Parliament that he had obtained more information about the ships of the royal navy from the book of Chief Engineer King, U. S. N., than he could get at the Admiralty Office. It is somewhat so with our own Navy, for very little is published about engines and boilers, and their working on board our ships; and only from the letter referred to did I gain the information that the temperature of the fire room of the *Marion* was 130 deg. during a summer cruise in the Mediterranean. In that sea a cruise could not be of any very great extent or of long duration, and it is probable that the ship went from port to port in pleasant weather. She experienced no weather in which the hatches had to be battened down, nor was she in any action where the hatches had to be closed. In either of these situations she could not of course maintain a temperature of 130 deg., but the thermometer would indicate under the circumstances mentioned nearer 160 deg. than 130 deg., and I challenge any set of firemen to work for any length of time in such a fire room. The *Marion* and *Seatar* were engaged as nearly alike as possible, and in the tropics the temperature of the fire room of the *Seatar* was 150 deg., with all the ventilators and windsails trimmed in the most favorable position.

In the same JOURNAL (Nov. 24), there is on page

254 an article from the London *Engineer* in reference to the fire and engine room temperature of H. M. S. *Shannon*, during a three hours' trial. The highest degree of heat was 109 deg. in the engine room, 97 deg. in the starboard, and 84 deg. in the port fire room. The result was satisfactory, and the "wear and tear incident to the life of a fireman will be greatly diminished." Although excessive heat may not "constitute a solid ground for the objection to compound engines," yet the question is such an important one that the British naval authorities are expending a great deal of time and money to overcome it, while I know of no instance in our own Navy where the subject has received consideration. I contend that the objection is a very solid one, as the death rates and pension list will show. It is a recorded fact that whenever contagious diseases occur on board our steam-ships-of-war the greatest mortality takes place among the firemen and coal passers. This is due to the enervating effect of hard work in an over-heated fire room, where the recuperative power to overcome disease has been expended in firing. In fact the fire rooms of our ships with compound engines are so excessively hot that it was considered advisable to detain the *Tennessee* in the Mediterranean until the approach of cool weather, before going through the Suez Canal and down the Red Sea. The hot fire and engine rooms of our compound engine ships is not the only reason why so many even of the Engineer Corps of the Navy object to them. While the simple engine expends more coal, the compound engine requires the greater amount of repairs and consequent outlay of money.

The *Marion* after crossing the Atlantic required repairs amounting to over four thousand dollars, and that after a passage of less than four thousand miles, a greater portion of which was made under sail. The *Seatar* required \$2,000 of repairs in steaming ten thousand miles, and at the end of that time was nearly a year under repairs. The *Trenton*, *Vandalia*, *Enterprise*, *Huron*, and in fact all the ships engaged with the converted or compound engines required extensive repairs in every port, so that it is fair to state that the increased expenditures for repairs more than counterbalances the cost of the fuel that the simple engine uses over the amount used by those that are compounded. As far as speed under steam is concerned, the *Ticonderoga*, *Canandaigua*, *Shenandoah*, *Tuscarora*, *Wachusett* and *Wyoming*, will compare favorably with any of the ships with compound engines. They will steam nearly as far on a given amount of coal, and return to port in far better condition so far as the engines are concerned. I claim that the compound engines of our ships have none of them ever been fairly tested, and what I would call a fair test is to have them fill up with coal and go under full speed at sea until the coal is expended. I never have claimed that a comparison of our engines with those of the trans-Atlantic steamers is a fair comparison, because we must have our engines and boilers below the water line. Those ships have valve rooms and valve gearing above the spar deck and are not confined to any given space, but with the superiority claimed for our compound engines of the Navy, what ship have we that can go from Liverpool to New York without slowing or stopping the engines, or giving out of fuel? Those steamers that I have mentioned often do it. But I have strayed somewhat from my subject, which is that in addition to other faults, the fire rooms of our compound engine ships are far above the temperature that men can work in without soon becoming disabled, as the many men who have been taken from the deck to keep up the complement of the fire department can testify to, and while our engineers are striving to improve those engines in order to make them serviceable at all times and in all weather I would appeal to them to do something to reduce the temperature of the engine and fire rooms. Very truly yours,

R. CHANDLER, Captain U. S. N.

PAYMASTER GENERAL'S OFFICE.

EXTRACTS FROM THE REPORTS OF PAYMASTER GENERAL, U. S. A.

RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS DURING THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 1877.

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| Balance in hands of Paymasters, July 1, 1876.... | \$1,691,640 71 |
| Amount received from Treasury | 12,601,400 00 |
| Do. of Soldiers' Deposits received | 328,585 05 |
| Do. of Paymasters' collections | 559,539 98 |
| Total to be accounted for | \$16,181,365 74 |

Accounted for as follows:

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| Disbursements: | |
| To Regular Army | \$12,904,741 73 |
| To Military Academy | 218,482 29 |
| To Volunteers on Treasury Certificates | 515,869 01 |
| Total Disbursements | \$13,639,093 03 |
| Surplus funds deposited in Treasury | 190,415 46 |
| Paymasters' collections deposited in Treasury | 559,539 98 |
| Balance in hands of Paymasters June 30, 1877, to be accounted for in next report | 1,792,317 27 |
| Total accounted for | \$16,181,365 74 |

I desire again to call attention to the clause of the act of July 24, 1876, providing for mileage at eight cents per mile, being paid to officers travelling under orders, which forbids payment of mileage for travel "on any railroad on which the troops of the United States are entitled to be transported free of charge." There are fifty of these roads according to the list furnished by the Second Comptroller of the Treasury, and published in General Orders, No. 97, of September 8, 1876; and they reach a total length of about 8,000 miles. Officers must obtain transportation orders in advance before travelling over them, but these embrace only railroad fare, which forms only a portion of the expenses of travel. The mileage should be restored to the former long established and just rate of ten cents a mile; for eight cents is quite inadequate,

especially taking into consideration the travel on those so-called "free roads." Those roads lie mainly west of the Mississippi, and the greater portion of the travel, under orders, of officers of the Army is in the same region.

The Second Comptroller, in his letter of February 7, 1877, to the Secretary of War, decides that the list of free roads given in General Orders, No. 97, of 1876, should remain unchanged until further legislation. Therefore I have redoubled reason to urge the entire repeal of the provision forbidding the payment of mileage for travel over free roads. Mileage is a substitute for "actual travelling expenses;" a plan always interpreted as giving more than the bare railroad or stage fare. The accident that a road is a free road in no way weakens the claim of the officer for some allowance beyond the mere railroad ticket. I have had abundant evidence of the hardship of this rule in letters from points on the frontier to the War Department, sent to this bureau, setting forth clearly that eight cents a mile is insufficient, especially where there are free roads on the route.

In my last three annual reports, commencing with that of October, 1874, I have advocated legislation to establish an annuity scheme for the benefit of the heirs of officers of the Army. The last two annual messages of the President, and the last two annual reports of the Secretary of War, spoke in commendatory terms of it. I must now reinforce my former recommendations. As for precedents, if they are needed, I have chanced to know of two, "An Army Widows' Fund" of the German Government, and a Navy Fund in the Brazilian Navy (established in 1795), formed by the deduction of one day's pay in every month. But they are fundamentally different from Colonel Fry's scheme, which I have advocated, in that they were compulsory, whereas the latter is to be carried out by the voluntary action of the officers; and thus is more in harmony with American ideas.

At the risk of some repetition I will place in an appendix to this report a *resumé* of the language used by me on this topic in my last three annual reports, viz.:—those for 1874, 1875 and 1876. The last two were partly written to answer questions which had arisen. I also append a copy of the last form in which a bill for it has been presented, viz.:—S. 1297, offered by Senator Burnside in the Senate, February 6, 1877. Concerning this I will note that its operation is limited to officers "less than sixty years of age and of healthy lives." It might be said that these restrictions could have been inserted in the regulations to execute the plan, which the Secretary of War would be authorized to adopt. But experience shows that the War Department should, by positive law, be relieved of the sure and incessant pressure to extend the boundaries of such limitations; and the restrictions named in the bill are those usual in such cases.

As to the rate of interest, the bill says "it shall be the duty of the Secretary of War to adopt a set of survivorship annuity tables, based upon suitable life tables, and six per centum interest," etc. The funds raised by deductions from the pay of the officers are worth a certain interest to the Government. Bearing in mind all the manifold objects in view, the law may well authorize the calculations to be made on this basis. No gain is intended to accrue to the Government in the end, though for many years the scheme will put money in the Treasury; but the bill provides that "no ultimate expenses to the United States shall be involved in its execution." There will be needed two or three additional clerks, in this office, of the higher grades, if it becomes a law.

If it is objected that officers, on the very eve of war, would go into it, the answer is, it is so intended, the more the better; it is designed to stimulate officers to go into the scheme at any time they choose, the mortality tables showing that, in the long run, the Government can afford to do it. But these tables may change with events. If after a score of years or less, the result should show the tables were unfavorable to the Government, they could then be changed under the light of new mortality tables, or of the thorough statistics which must by this scheme be accumulated. The reports of the Registrar General of England, and the "English Life Tables" by William Farr, give evidence how much governments can do to assist in procuring valuable and reliable elements for such calculations.

The amount received as deposits (under act of May 15, 1873, or section 1305, Revised Statutes,) from the enlisted men during the last fiscal year was \$328,585.05. The number of deposits was 5,651, and thus the average of each was \$58.15. The total of deposits during the five years since the passage of the act, up to 30th June last, is \$1,646,213 47—average of each, \$51.13. I regret to say that the number of desertions in the Army seems to have reached a minimum (1,832) last year; as the number during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1877, was 2,531. It is to be hoped that these retrograde figures will not continue.

I will again recommend an increase of the pay of paymasters' clerks, now a hundred dollars per month, and inadequate, taking into consideration the labors and hazards of the military service.

Although it has often been a topic of my communications through your office to the Committee on Appropriations, I will here repeat that it is very desirable that the appropriation for pay, etc., of the Army shall be consolidated, as they have been habitually for the Navy. (See, for example, act of March 3, 1877, Vol. 19, page 385, of Statutes at Large.) If appropriations are made under fifteen different heads, they must, under section 3678, Revised Statutes, each be accounted for separately, with separate abstracts and vouchers, especially if the *provisos* should be omitted contained at the bottom of the last Pay Department appropriation, act of July 24, 1876. (Vol. 19, page 97, Statutes.)

The herculean labors which would thus be imposed, can well be imagined. The excess of funds occurring

under one item could not be utilized to supply the deficiency under another item, as we are not always able to estimate with precision the actual wants contingent on events. The estimates indicate minutely the way of arriving at the sum total required, but are furnished not as a basis for framing the phraseology of the appropriation, but to enable all to understand the mode of arriving at that total. The chief labor and vigilance of Paymasters should be addressed to the task of making no payments contrary to law and regulations, and should not be frittered away on a useless mass of unnecessary writings. The great object is to have promptitude, and thorough accountability, economy and efficiency, with the least amount of papers.

DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA.

From the annual report of Gen. Kautz we extract the following concerning the operations of the troops in this Department:

The troops have continued to be successful in the pursuit of renegades in the northern portion of the territory. In the month of August, 1876, as soon as the troops were sufficiently rested from the long marches consequent upon the removal of the Chiricahua Indians to the San Carlos Reservation, Capt. Porter, 8th Infantry, with fourteen soldiers and twenty-six Indian scouts, made a scout after renegade Indians in the Red Rock country north of Camp Verde, and succeeded in killing seven and capturing seven of the renegades.

During the month of September last, another scout under Guide Slesher, with twenty-one scouts, killed five and captured thirteen Indians in the rough country lying east of Camp Verde.

In October another scout from Camp Verde, consisting of twelve soldiers and twenty-one Indian scouts, commanded by Captain Porter, 8th Infantry, killed eight Indians and captured two squaws in the country east of Verde, known as Tonto Basin.

From Jan. 10 to Feb. 4, of the present year, Capt. Brayton, 8th Infantry, with nine soldiers and twenty-nine Indian scouts, was out to find three Indians and three squaws, renegades from San Carlos Reservation, at the request of the acting agent. At various points in the Tonto Basin country, he succeeded in killing eighteen and brought in twenty prisoners, which were sent back to San Carlos.

In July of last year the removal of the Chiricahua Indians was effected. It will be remembered that a portion of the Chiricahua escaped the removal, and I was of the opinion that they had gone to the Warm Spring Reservation, in New Mexico. Depredations followed upon the breaking up of the Chiricahua Reservation in the south-eastern portion of the territory, and every effort was made to secure the perpetrators with most unsatisfactory results.

In July two miners named Tokenworth and Kehoe or Cadotte, were killed in the Chiricahua Mountains twenty-five miles south of Bowie. These men are referred to in my last report. A small detachment of cavalry was sent out which buried the bodies of these men and followed the trail of the perpetrators, believed to be five Indians, to the Sonora line. During the month of July some stock disappeared from the head waters of the San Pedro River. A portion was ascertained to have been taken by Mexicans, but the greater portion was charged to Indians.

Sept. 15, two men were killed on the San Pedro River. Their names were Mowrey and Johnson. Capt. Tupper, 6th Cav., was sent to the scene of the killing, and his report threw great doubt upon the charge that they had been killed by Indians. During the month of September an extensive scout was made by Lieut. Henley, 6th Cavalry, without finding any Indians. During the month of October a very thorough scout was made by Captain Tupper with cavalry and a company of Indian scouts, which had recently been enlisted, and he reported it the safest country against Indians that he had ever scouted through. Capt. White, 6th Cavalry, scouted the country near Old Camp Crittenden about the same time with a like result. During the month of November Lieut. Rucker, 6th Cavalry, scouted the Chiricahua Mountains with a company of Indian scouts and a detachment of cavalry, but failed to find any Indians.

About the 1st of December Samuel Hughes reported the loss of twenty-one horses and that his partner had been pursued by Indians in the neighborhood of Camp Crittenden. Lieut. Rucker with the Indian scouts and a small detachment of cavalry was ordered to pursue the depredators. As he had to be recalled from another scout that he had undertaken, he was not able to take up the trail until the 17th of December. He however followed it faithfully until the 9th of January, when he found the Indians in the southwest corner of New Mexico. He attacked and killed ten of them, captured their herd of more than forty animals, and their camp, made a small boy prisoner. This boy made prisoner proved to be a nephew of Geronimo, the principal chief of those who made their escape from the Chiricahua Reservation, and the fact that Lieutenant Rucker's report gave evidence of more Indians than I had supposed Geronimo's party to consist of, satisfied me that he had been reinforced from the Warm Spring Reservation, and that he had probably made that reservation his base of operations. Subsequent investigations confirmed this opinion. In answer to a letter of inquiry on these points, Dr. Whitney, Acting Agent at the Warm Spring Reservation, answered under date of Feb. 28, that about the time of the removal of the Chiricahua about two hundred and fifty Indians came from the Chiricahua to the Warm Spring Reservation. Lieut. Henley visited the Warm Spring Reservation and under date of March 17, 1877, telegraphed that he had seen Geronimo at the reservation the day previous; that he had just returned from a raid with a hundred horses and was indignant that he could not draw rations for the time he was absent. These evidences confirmed the impressions, made by Lieut. Rucker's report, that the Warm Spring Reservation was the base of operations for the renegades, and that there was a larger force liable to be in the field committing depredations than I had at first supposed. To meet this reinforcement of renegades, Capt. Worth, 8th Infantry, with the scouts from Camp Apache, was ordered to Camp Bowie, Jan. 20, 1877.

On the 4th of February the commanding officer at Camp Bowie reported that Indians had appeared on the San Pedro, and were committing depredations, and that Lieut. Rucker, with the scouts and a cavalry support had been ordered to that neighborhood. On the 5th the commanding officer at Camp Lowell reported that Indians were depredating in the Sonora Valley, and that Lieut. Hanna, with Co. B, 6th Cavalry, had been ordered to that locality. The same day I received a despatch from Gov. Safford asking for arms, which the commanding officer of Camp Lowell was directed to furnish. The Governor did not ask for troops, but I informed him of what had been done.

This raid proved to be one of unusual extent, although first report was found to be greatly exaggerated. The reported ten men killed in the Sonora Valley, proved to be two men killed and one wounded. The loss by the entire raid, including the losses in the San Pedro, Sonora, and Santa Cruz Valleys, was seven Mexicans killed and four wounded, eighty-five horses, mules, and cattle captured or killed. The number of raiders was variously estimated from fifteen to thirty Indians. They separated about the 8th of February, and a portion returned to the Warm Spring Reservation. It was the trail of this party that Lieut. Rucker struck and followed within a day's march of the Warm Spring Reservation, when the inclemency of the weather obliterated the trail and compelled him to put in to Fort Bayard, N. M., for supplies and recuperation. The other raiders continued on into Sonora, and reports of their outrages reached us from that region, and three weeks later Captain Worth with his command intercepted a trail, made by some of the party, that crossed the border into southwestern New Mexico from Sonora, and which was followed for some days by Capt. Worth. When he abandoned the trail it was leading in the direction of the Warm Springs, and the renegades evidently had reached the reservation and had been lost beyond detection among the other Indians at the time he gave up the pursuit. Capt. Worth's command did not reach Bowie from Apache until the middle of February. He made a long scout from Feb. 18 to April 4, searching for the renegades, but was not able to find them.

To protect the people that inhabited the region visited by Indians in this raid, I established, Feb. 12, the camp in the Hun-

chua Mountains, drawing a company of cavalry from Camp Lowell and one from Camp Grant for the purpose.

April 1, another raid was made by the renegades in the neighborhood of Old Camp Crittenden and the Sonora Valley, in smaller force but proportionally successful with the raid in February, in which two Mexicans were killed and one wounded near Camp Crittenden on the 15th, and a Mr. Devers wounded on the 16th in the Sonora Valley. The amount of stock killed and captured amounted to about thirty-five horses and mules.

Captain Rafferty, 6th Cavalry, with his company from Camp Huchuca, was at the scene of depredations near Camp Crittenden the next day after they were committed, but reported his inability to follow the trail, and the renegades made their escape, although he travelled over two hundred and thirty-five miles. He had no competent trailers. Lieut. Craig with twelve cavalymen from the same camp made a scout about the same time to the eastward, returning by the scene of depredations, but was unable to find the depredators. During this same period Lieut. Rucker, with twenty-nine cavalry and thirty-five Indian scouts, was scouting the country still further east, including the Chiricahua Mountains, San Simon Valley and Sierra Peak Range, but failed to find any Indians. These three scouts were made between the 16th and the 28th of April, over the ground that it is believed the renegades had to pass in going to and coming from their raids.

From May 9, to 30, Lieutenant Buckner, 6th Cavalry, with thirty cavalry and thirty-one Indian scouts, made a scout southeast of Bowie through Picochilla, Loidendorf, Las Animas and Guadalupe Mountains, without finding any Indians.

Just before Lieut. Rucker's return, the Indians appeared near Bowie and killed the mail carrier going east, four miles from Camp Bowie on the 29th, and on the 31st the same party killed the mail carrier going west, five miles from the same post. Lieut. Rucker's command was too much reduced from the constant scouting to make pursuit; Lieut. Toney with twenty-two enlisted men from Camp Grant, with limited transportation, took up the trail of these depredators and followed them into the Las Animas Mountains, where he came upon six Indians, who discovered their pursuer in time to scatter and make good their escape. Lieut. Toney's scout, although unsuccessful in capturing the renegades seems to have been energetically and judiciously conducted under great disadvantages. He returned on the 11th June to Camp Bowie.

Lieut. Hanna, 6th Cavalry, with twenty-five Cavalry and thirty-six Indian scouts, made a scout in the adjacent country from the Camp in the Huchuca Mountains, from June 6, to 23, without finding any Indians.

I have been thus precise in detailing the principal scouts made during the past year, to show that notwithstanding the limited means, the troops in this command have been far from idle. It should be borne in mind that the allotment from appropriations for this department for the past fiscal year has been more than one-third less than the previous year in most of the items, and for some, as for example forage, nearly one-half, whilst the prices under the contracts have generally been greater; this necessitated a great reduction in the number of civilian employees, in place of whom soldiers were necessarily detailed, whilst the amount of field service required from the troops was also greater than the year before. The injustice of the reflections of the late Governor of the Territory and one or two other Federal officials on the military operations are thus made apparent.

(From the Topeka, Kan., Commonwealth, Dec. 20.)

A LETTER FROM GEN. SHERMAN.

It has been stated that Gen. W. T. Sherman was at one time a resident of Shawnee County, and the question having arisen, Judge Adams wrote him some time ago, and has received the following reply in reference to it:

"HQRS ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES,
WASHINGTON, NOV. 24, 1877."

"F. G. Adams, Esq., Topeka, Kan.:

"MY DEAR SIR: Your letter of August 9 came when I was absent in the Northwest. I have been so closely occupied since my return that I have had no time to answer your inquiry. In the spring of 1859 I was a resident of Leavenworth City, a member of the law firm of Sherman, Ewing and McCook. Hon. Thomas Ewing, of Ohio, owned a tract of prairie land on the north side of Indian Creek, just where the old stage road crossed it. He desired to establish thereon his grand-nephew, Henry Clark, and his grand-niece, Mrs. Walker, and authorized me in advance to prepare the way. I rode out from Leavenworth City, examined the land, made the acquaintance of the neighbors, and then contracted for the fencing of 100 acres, plowing and planting it with sod corn. I also bought a house in an embryo town on the other side of Indian Creek, had it removed to the land, built an addition to the house, and also a barn. I also bought the necessary horses, cows, and farming tools—all at the cost of Mr. Ewing. In due season, about May, 1859, Henry Clark arrived and took charge of the farm. Soon after he was joined by Mr. and Mrs. Walker. This is all I had to do with that farm. It was not mine, and I did little labor thereon, more than to assist the workmen engaged in moving the house, building the addition and the barn, with some general supervision of the fencing, plowing, and planting. This farm was in Shawnee County, about forty miles from Leavenworth City, and seven or eight from Topeka.

"If this information is of any interest to you, you are surely welcome to it. Yours truly,

"W. T. SHERMAN, General."

THE TRAINING OF FRENCH SCIENTIFIC OFFICERS.

THE correspondent of the London *News*, who is writing a series of papers, "Round About France," gives the following account of a recent visit to the Ecole Polytechnique, Paris, where the cadets who aspire to commissions in the Engineers, Artillery, and Marines receive their military education:

"It is a big place, lying hidden amongst a network of small streets, not far from the Pantheon, and its front entrance is not imposing. Inside it looks like a clean but not luxurious barrack, grafted on to a set of old school-rooms. The course of study is severe, perhaps too severe for failing eyesight, and spectacles are more frequent than they should be among growing lads, though in other respects the school is healthy and its infirmary never full.

"At five o'clock summer and winter the bugle sounds réveillée, and half an hour later the students are all in their studies preparing for the first lecture, which takes place at seven. This is generally the hour when intricate mathematical problems are best solved, by freshened minds which had abandoned them in despair overnight. At eight o'clock breakfast bugle sounds, and coffee, chocolate, and milk, along with bread without butter, are served in the two great refectories. At half-past eight there is a general parade, at which the governor of the school, a General, makes

his appearance and reads out his orders of the day, announces coming examinations, or administers scoldings, as the case may be. This is followed by an hour's drill with carbines, the instructors being retired sergeants of infantry and artillery, and the commanders retired officers. It is a wonder to see with what precision these young men drill, it being their ambition to keep level in this point with their comrades of St. Cyr, who are said to excel any regiment of the Line in manoeuvring.

"The 2nd-year Polytechnicians are taught gunnery, and the best among them, who wear sergeants' stripes on their cuffs, take their turns at company commanding. After drill there is more work in the studies and lecture-rooms till noon, when dinner comes, in the shape of soup, boiled beef, cheese, and half a pint of very thin red wine. The students are divided into messes of twenty, and are not constrained to the rule of silence at table, which makes the banquets in French lycées so funeral; they dine as gaily as English undergraduates in hall, though their fare is not so sumptuous as that which British students enjoy, and generally grumble at. After dinner there is an hour for recreation, which means a grand lighting-up of pipes and cigarettes, and some desultory leap-frog in the big airing yards, but no games with balls. There are, however, a couple of excellent billiard-tables, and the future engineers and artillerymen are encouraged to train themselves in the science of angles and tangents by cultivating pyramids and pool. At half-past 1 that irrepressible bugle sounds again, and books are once more resumed till 3 o'clock in winter, 4 o'clock in summer, when *gouter* supervenes, in the shape of a crust of bread, with such concomitants in the way of chocolate, Lyons sausage, or Gruyère cheese as the student likes to buy at the canteen. After this there is another parade for drill, which lasts three-quarters of an hour, and then studies and lectures again till eight, when a supper of roast meat, with vegetables or salad, brings the day to a succulent close.

"Some of the students take to their books again after supper, and fag away till a quarter to ten; but this practice is not favored by the masters, and at any rate the bugle which sounds 'lights out' at ten makes any 'sapping' beyond that hour impossible. The students sleep in dormitories of twelve beds, one of the pupil-sergeants being attached to each room to keep order; but this is the only sign of the monitorial system on which the discipline of English schools is based. In the studies and recreation grounds the supervision is exercised by the drill instructors, retired sergeants, as above said, and it must be owned that they get more respect than would be shown them by English youths, though this may be owing to the fact that they make themselves as small and civil as possible. All the pupils address each other as *tu*, and there are some laudable customs of *camaraderie* amongst them, as, for instance, one connected with the award of foundation studentships (*bourses*) to the poorer pupils.

"From the sum of £45 a year which the majority of students pay for their board and tutoring, a sum of £4 per student is levied to form a charity fund, which is supplemented by a grant from the War Office, and by this some students, named by a committee of their comrades, are educated gratis. With the usual branches of military school studies, fencing, broadsword, boxing, the *savatte* (scientific kicking in self defence), and dancing are taught at the Ecole Polytechnique, not as extras, but as part of the regular course. Every student is required to fence and box at least two hours a week, and to dance one hour. The balls are said to be great fun, but unhappily no strangers are admitted to witness the gyrations of the young men in military jackets, who have to make shift without feminine partners. The numbers at the school are at present 550, and the course includes two years' training for each student; but a pupil who fails to pass his final examination—a very rare occurrence—in generally suffered to stay a third year, or if he prefer it he is commissioned straight to one of the line regiments without needing to pass through St. Cyr. The entrance examination into the Polytechnique is generally accounted harder than that for the commissions at the sister military academy."

THE *New York Times*' Washington correspondent writes: "There is an increase of talk about the Draper restoration case, and the story of the restoration of Gen. Runkle, which was some time ago passed by without much notice, is revived. Runkle was cashiered by sentence of court-martial in 1873. The sentence, besides dismissing him from the Service, imposed a fine of \$7,500 and imprisonment for four years. The Secretary of War reviewed the sentence, and, in consideration of Runkle's service in the war, remitted the fine and imprisonment. The Secretary's order is required by law to be sent to the President for review. It is claimed that the President did not review the order in Runkle's case, nor approve it, and, therefore, technically, President Hayes had the right to act, and could either approve or disapprove the sentence. He disapproved it and Runkle went back to his rank with about \$12,000 back pay. Runkle was Court-martialed for grave misconduct in connection with the Freedmen's Bureau, and it is claimed that he was unfairly dealt with, and made a scapegoat for others. The whole matter will get before Congress, but it is probable there will be no more similar restorations. There are numerous cases of the same classes, and several applications have been made, based upon the action in the Runkle case. The Judge-Advocate-General is said to have pointed out that the Supreme Court makes the action of the head of a department the action of the President, and as cases of this kind are by precedent, and doubtless by law, regarded as adjudicated and settled, they cannot lawfully be reopened. The subject, aside from its personal and immediate interest, opens up a large legal question, and it may turn out that neither Runkle nor Draper are legally restored."

THE NATIONAL GUARD.

SEVENTH NEW YORK.—Co. C, Capt. Pollard, held its company drill at the regimental armory on Dec. 26, being formed with four sergeants and nineteen files. The formation was somewhat marred by the arrival of late men whose tramping to the rear interfered with the calling of the roll. The company was turned over to Lieut. Carrington, who at once commenced the drill by the marchings in column of fours and company front. During these movements the step was regular, but too slow, being barely 104 to the minute; the distances were excellent, and alignments, company front, almost perfect. In one instance only did the fours lose distance, and that to a very slight degree. At 8:45 Capt. Pollard assumed command, when the wheelings from a halt were very evenly executed. The left guide of the company was not paying strict attention during these movements, causing an imperfect wheel on two occasions; while at "guides post," on resuming his position, he faced left about. After numerous marchings, company and fours all excellent, the breaking of fours to the rear and front into line was executed. The captain was very explicit in his instructions, and the changes were very handsomely executed; the breaking from the left being much smoother than that from the right. The guides, particularly the left, were very careless in these movements, following in rear of the fours instead of closing in on the flank. At one time when left fours were broken to the rear, the company marched and wheeled without a guide. The error was finally noticed by the captain, and the sergeant corrected. A left front into line from the column of fours on the march was fairly performed, although there was a lack of promptness and unity in the raising of the fore arms at the double time. On right into line was good, the fours wheeling promptly, halting and dressing in fine shape. The unevenness of the carry, however, detracted from the perfection of the movement. The manual of arms was next performed. This is to all appearances the weak point of the company. The time was too slow, and there was considerable straggling in the dropping of the hands. The order arms was, however, finely executed, the usual bang so prevalent in this regiment being omitted, and the pieces being brought gently to the ground as directed by the tactics. It is, therefore, not the echo of the hall as explained by one captain, which causes the bang at the order arms. The loadings and firings were next taken up; but the men were not sufficiently instructed to perform the several motions in unison. In firing with the bayonet fixed the weight was too great for many of the men; the pieces wavered and several of the hammers were snapped before the command fire. The guides invariably returned to their places in line without the command "posts." Another series of marches were executed, the men not being as steady as during the first part of the drill. At one of these marches, and about five minutes to 9 o'clock, a late man was observed joining the rear four, the first lieutenant giving him his correct number instead of sending him to his company quarters. It seems hard to expect promptness at roll call in other organizations, when companies of the 7th regiment, who pride themselves on being the perfection of National Guardsmen, allow such loose discipline. The drill was dismissed at a few minutes past 9 o'clock.

The roll of honor for 1877, members most distinguished for long and faithful service in the regiment, published annually by the board of officers, shows in the field, 3; staff, 4; non-commissioned staff, 9; Cos. A, 9; B, 10; C, 3; D, 10; E, 17; F, 2; G, 2; H, 8; I, 4; and K, 3. Total, 85 members, now doing full duty in the regiment, and whose terms of service have expired. The list is headed by the veteran color Sergeant Peter D. Braisted, who joined the 7th in 1845.

The roll of marksmen for 1877 are also announced, showing 210 officers and men who have qualified during the year. Capt. James L. Price, commanding Co. H, heads the list with 45 out of the possible 50 points.

A regimental court-martial is ordered to convene at the armory on Tuesday, Jan. 15, 1878, at 8 o'clock P. M., for the trial of delinquent non-commissioned officers and privates of this regiment. Major George Moore Smith, President. Commissary Sergeant Louis B. Rader has been appointed and commissioned commissary of subsistence. Sergeant Thomas Clark, Jr., has been appointed commissary sergeant; Wm. B. Coughtry, Co. G, right general guide; and Wm. H. Langley, Co. I, left general guide. Private James B. D. Jardine having been expelled by Co. A, and Private George L. Walker by Co. B, the action of the companies has been confirmed in General Orders.

G. F. Merchant, Co. I, 7th regiment, writes us as follows: In the last number of the JOURNAL my score in the Nevada Badge is published as "disallowed." In justice to myself, an explanation of this circumstance should be given. We were competing on the same day for regimental badges, and I used in the Nevada Badge match ammunition issued for the other matches—very carelessly I am willing to admit, but certainly not intentionally. The error was not discovered until my score was two-thirds completed, and it was thrown out in consequence.

FOURTEENTH NEW YORK.—The new armory of this regiment, formerly the State Arsenal, at Brooklyn, will be formally opened on January 9 with a battalion drill, review, dress parade and reception. The regiment has been working hard for the past month, preparing for this event, and will no doubt make a good showing on the occasion. Recruiting too has been fairly brisk, and Col. McLeer has infused much of his own spirit into the officers and men. The new year will open prosperously for the 14th. The main drill-room of the new armory will be 182 feet long and 94 feet wide. The height corresponds with that of the old arsenal, the whole surrounded by an arched iron roof, supported by eleven girders. The ceiling is of a mazarin blue, and upon one side of each girder is a representation of the regimental emblem—a Maltese cross, bearing the number "14" in the centre, and encircled by a garb bearing the regimental motto, "Baptized by fire." Upon the reverse is a medallion, upon which is inscribed the name of one of the twenty-two engagements in which the regiment participated, as follows:

| Battle. | Date. | Battle. | Date. |
|------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Bull Run (1st) | July 21, 1861 | Antietam | Sept. 17, 1862 |
| Bull Run (2d) | Nov. 18, 1861 | Fredericksburg | Dec. 13, 1862 |
| Falmouth | April 17, 1862 | Port Royal | April 23, 1863 |
| Rappahannock | Aug. 21, 1862 | Fitzhugh Crossing | April 29, 1863 |
| Beverly Ford | Aug. 22, 1862 | Chancellorsville | May 3 and 4, 1863 |
| Sulphur Springs | Aug. 28, 1862 | Seminary Hill | July 1, 1863 |
| Gettysburg | July 2 and 3, 1863 | | |
| Groveton | Aug. 29, 1862 | Mine Run | Nov. 30, 1863 |
| Bull Run (3d) | Aug. 30, 1862 | Wilderness | May 6 and 7, 1863 |
| Chancellorsville | Sept. 1, 1862 | Laurel Hill | May 8 and 11, 1863 |
| South Mountain | Sept. 14, 1862 | Spotsylvania C. H. | May 13 and 17, 1863 |

A gallery will extend around three sides of the drill-room, communicating by ten arches on the east side with a corridor which separates the new from the old building and to the officers' quarters. In the first story are the armorers' and ten company rooms, each 41 by 14 feet, the entrance to which will be through the corridor. On the side opposite the company rooms are ten arched exits to

the drill-room, thus enabling the several companies to march from their rooms into line in the drill-hall without crowding. Immediately over the company rooms, and opening into the upper corridor are the quarters allotted to the Board of Officers, the colonel, adjutant, inspector of rifle practice, quartermaster, Veteran Association, and a "squad" drill-room. The Board of Officers' room is 41 feet long and 23 feet wide, and the squad drill-room is 73 by 41 feet. A rifle range has been constructed directly under the main drill-room, 170 feet long and 15 feet wide. Windows on the side admit sufficient light for shooting in the daytime, and at either end are numerous gas jets which will enable the riflemen to practice with ease during the evening. Two target butts have been erected at the end. The floor of the drill-room constitutes a safe roof to the range, being laid on iron girders, with the interstices filled with brick and cement in the form of arches. The entire range is surrounded by a stone wall three feet thick. The main entrance to the armory will be through a tower, of which there are three, one in the centre and one at either end. The building is one of the handsomest in the State, and is well adapted for the purposes of an armory and drill-room.

TWENTY-SECOND NEW YORK.—The third of the series of concerts so happily introduced by Co. B, of this regiment, was held at the armory, Fourteenth street, on Friday, Dec. 21, with the usual fine attendance. In addition to the Burdett Glee Club, the entertainment committee had secured the services of Miss Annie J. Borie, soprano, and Mrs. A. Bulkeley Hills, contralto; Mr. E. Byron being the elocutionist. The programme was varied, the selections of the artists being well chosen. The *Adieu* to *adieu* *mi* *voici* of Mrs. Hills was beautifully rendered, while Miss Borie did full justice to the selection from "Robert." The concert was a fine success, and the proceeds are devoted to the recruiting of the company, the "Busy Bees" will, no doubt, lead the 1st Division at the next annual inspection.

General Orders No. 23, current series, announce the names and scores of the members of the regiment who have won the marksmen's badge for the year 1877. Seventy-three men have qualified, Capt. John S. Loomis, I. R. P., leading the list with 44 out of the possible 50 points.

The parade returns for uniform fund of this regiment for 1877, show that 100 non-commissioned officers, 86 musicians and 382 privates—total 568—are entitled to the \$7 per man allowed by the State for making the required seven parades.

Col. Wm. W. Remmey, late of the 22d New York, departed this life at his residence, Jersey City Heights, on Christmas morning. Col. Remmey was born in New York in 1840, and received his education in our public schools. His father was a veteran of the war of 1812, and the true spirit of the soldier was early instilled in the mind of the young man. The advent of Ellsworth's Chicago Zouaves fired him with military enthusiasm, and in 1860 he was enrolled as a member of one of the independent companies modeled on the Ellsworth plan. In the summer of 1861 when the 22d regiment was organized he was one of the first to enlist, and remained in its ranks until forced to retire by failing health. With his company (B) he participated in the 1862 campaign of the regiment, being promoted sergeant and second lieutenant during the three months' service. He was soon after promoted first lieutenant, and on July 15, 1863, was elected a captain of his company. The spirit instilled by the little captain soon forced his company into the leading position in the regiment, and the "Busy Bees" were noted for strength, discipline, and drill. In 1865 he was promoted major, and in February, 1867, was chosen lieutenant-colonel. In 1869 he was elected colonel of the 22d, remaining, however, but a short time, in consequence of ill health. The members of the regiment and Veteran corps attended his funeral.

TWENTY-FIFTH NEW YORK.—The annual prize drill of the Steuben Cadets, Co. I, of this regiment, Capt. Walker, for the medal presented by the life members of the company, was held at the arsenal, Albany, on Monday, December 20. The medal was awarded after a very spirited contest to Sergt. Augustus Kroll, the judges being Capt. Blaise, Lieut. Puffer, Col. Huber, Lieut. Fisher and Lieut. Hill. The medal has been held for two years by Capt. Walker, and one year by Sergt. Gutman.

SIXTY-NINTH NEW YORK.—Some time since an announcement was made in the daily press that a "cadet corps" was about to be formed in this regiment, and one of the staff officers asked the public for subscriptions in aid of the new organization, without consulting the officers. As the formation of this corps was merely in embryo, the board very naturally objected to an unauthorized party collecting money for the uses of the regiment, more particularly as at this present time the regiment is in a sound financial condition, with all its debts paid, and some \$1,500 or more in hand. A meeting of the board was promptly called and the following resolution in reference to the matter adopted:

Whereas, An article appeared in the Sunday papers of the 16th December, from an unauthorized party, calling on the public to subscribe money for the purpose of organizing a cadet corps in the 69th regiment; and

Whereas, This individual has no authority whatever to collect funds in the name of the regiment; therefore be it

Resolved, That the undersigned officers of the 69th regiment Infantry, N. G. S. N. Y., respectfully request the public to withhold their subscriptions. Signed,

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Wm. DeLacy, Lieut.-Col. | James Carroll, First Lieut. |
| Edward Duffy, Major. | John Regan, First Lieut. |
| Michael Brennan, Capt. | Michael White, First Lieut. |
| John Kerr, Capt. | John Greeny, First Lieut. |
| William Cushing, Capt. | Chas. E. Wilson, First Lieut. |
| Martin McDonnell, Capt. | Robt. McFeeley, Second Lieut. |
| James Punnnett, Capt. | Patk. Farrelly, Second Lieut. |
| Michael Maguire, Capt. | Wm. Purcell, Second Lieut. |
| Nicholas Duffy, Capt. | James J. Ward, Second Lieut. |
| John McDonnell, Capt. | |

It is to be hoped that the subject will not rest here, but that an investigation will be had as to the motives of this officer. The good name of the 69th has been trailed in the mire by individuals, more than once in times past, and a court of inquiry in this case would have a most salutary effect.

NATIONAL GUARD RIFLE PRACTICE.—Col. Geo. W. Wingate, General Inspector of Rifle Practice S. N. Y., in his report for the year 1877, announces that during the past year nine new ranges have been completed, viz.: at Albany, Watertown, Utica, Elmira, Ellipticville, Westfield, Warsaw, Batavia and Lockport. One range, that at Ithaca, has been closed for want of use. There are now twenty official ranges used by the National Guard, exclusive of several ranges established by separate companies. He gives an account of the several ranges in use by the State troops, their cost and equipment, adding: Heretofore the tendency in constructing rifle ranges has been to make them too large and too costly. This has been checked as far as possible and always should be. From 500 to 600 yards is the longest distance required for military shooting, and it is to military shooting that a range must look for support. The number who desire to shoot at greater distances is always small, and it is difficult and expensive to procure a range which will accommodate them. Neither is it necessary

that a range should be exactly level, as inequalities of the ground may be overcome at a slight expense by the erection of raised firing points. In establishing a range it never should be forgotten that if it is not convenient and easy of access, it never will become popular or successful. This is too apt to be overlooked from an erroneous idea of the necessity of having a 1,000 yards range. Neither is it necessary that a range should be purchased or be devoted exclusively to rifle practice. Generally the right to shoot over it upon as many days as are necessary can be secured at a moderate rent. Where the companies of a regiment are detached it is better to have several company ranges, though of the cheapest and most primitive description, than one first class regimental range. The former plan will result in improving all the companies, while the latter will only help those located near it. As a general thing the saving in the transportation of detached companies will, in a single year, go far towards fitting up separate ranges for them. With reference to the improvement in marksmanship, he states that the great improvement in skill that has been shown in the practice of the troops in the past two years still continues, although the general ignorance in regard to the use of the rifle, which was universal a few years ago, is so rapidly diminishing that the time will soon arrive when the percentages of annual improvement which have hitherto been shown can no longer be attained. This period, however, has not yet been reached. Not only has the number of those qualifying in the lower classes increased during the past year, but the skill displayed by those shooting is of a much higher grade. This is especially shown by the great increase in the number of marksmen. The aggregate number of men of whose practice reports have been received was 13,343, as against 10,946 in 1876, and 7,670 in 1875. Of these 8,024, or about sixty-eight per cent. qualified in the third class (at 100 and 150 yards) as against 5,311 in 1876 and 2,235 in 1875. Of these 4,990, or about sixty-one per cent. qualified in the second class (at three hundred and four hundred yards) as against 2,909 in 1876 and 802 in 1875, a gain of sixty-eight per cent. The total number reported as qualifying as marksmen was 2,126 as against 918 in 1876 and 533 in 1875, being 16 per cent. of those shooting, and a gain of 131 per cent.

The figures show an average improvement in the "figure of merit" of the infantry of the different divisions as follows: 1st Division, 307.69 equivalent to a gain of 169 per cent.; 2d Division, 67.76 equivalent to a gain of 35 per cent.; 7th Division, 13.31 equivalent to a gain of 86 per cent.; 8th Division, 20.51 equivalent to a gain of 44 per cent. The returns from the other divisions in previous years were too imperfect to admit of an accurate comparison being made. In 1875 none of the organizations of the National Guard were able at the close of the practice to show as many first class shots as they had third class. In other words they had more poor shots than good ones. In 1876 two were able to do so, the 12th Infantry and the Washington Grey Troop of Cavalry, for which they were especially mentioned in General Orders. In 1877 those entitled to this commendation are the 8th, 9th, 12th and 71st regiments and the Separate Company, 2d Division of Infantry, and the 3d regiment, Washington Grey, and Separate Troop 6th Division of Cavalry (Yates Dragoons), and the Gatling Battery, 11th Brigade. The 71st regiment stands first in order of merit among the infantry, having improved in almost every particular. The 8th and 9th regiments also show a very great improvement, while the 1st Separate Company 2d Division stands second on the order of merit of all the infantry organizations. Special credit is also due to the 7th and 23d regiments for the improvement shown, the difficulty of bestowing careful individual instruction and securing a large attendance at practice increasing with the strength of the regiment. The 2d Brigade was fortunate in having very fine weather on its practice days, which enabled it to qualify a large number of marksmen. The 12th regiment is the only one showing a loss in its figure of merit. This is to be ascribed to the very high position it attained in 1876, when it stood first among the infantry organizations. Though it has not improved relatively as much as others, it is still the fifth in order of merit. The following table shows the figure of merit of the several organizations:

| Order of Merit. | Regiment. | Present for Practice. | | Marksmen. | Figure of Merit. |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------|-----------|------------------|
| | | Number. | Percentage. | | |
| 1 | Seventy-first | 746 | 152 | 156 | 85.62 |
| 2 | First Sep. Co., 2d Division | 108 | 16 | 16 | 85.52 |
| 3 | Ninth | 1199 | 232 | 299 | 81.06 |
| 4 | Eighth | 845 | 340 | 119 | 68.48 |
| 5 | Twelfth | 578 | 194 | 57 | 58.16 |
| 6 | Seventh | 865 | 21 | 200 | 50.70 |
| 7 | Forty-eighth | 305 | 2 | 72 | 49.50 |
| 8 | Fourteenth | 324 | 2 | 58 | 44.64 |
| 9 | Eleventh | 399 | 197 | 103 | 47.65 |
| 10 | Twenty-third | 706 | 41 | 132 | 44.14 |
| 11 | Forty-fourth | 97 | — | 32 | 43.16 |
| 12 | Forty-seventh | 447 | 92 | 44 | 40.58 |
| 13 | Sixty-ninth | 448 | 132 | 64 | 39.72 |
| 14 | Twenty-second | 501 | 16 | 73 | 39.36 |
| 15 | Forty-ninth | 110 | — | 35 | 39.51 |
| 16 | Third Sep. Co., 31st Brigade | 101 | — | 14 | 38.60 |
| 17 | Thirteenth | 538 | 37 | 53 | 36.62 |
| 18 | Twenty-first | 225 | 249 | 23 | 36.34 |
| 19 | Seventy-fourth | 168 | — | 41 | 35.23 |
| 20 | Fifteenth Battalion | 302 | — | 94 | 34.77 |
| 21 | Fourth Sep. Co., 31st Brigade | 118 | — | 17 | 33.74 |
| 22 | Sixteenth Battalion | 132 | — | 94 | 32.69 |
| 23 | Twentieth Battalion | 235 | — | 17 | 31.11 |
| 24 | Fifth | 412 | — | 132 | 56.39.09 |
| 25 | Thirty-second | 526 | 91 | 38 | 38.07 |
| 26 | Twenty-eighth | 444 | 83 | 31 | 32.34 |
| 27 | Sixty-fifth | 184 | 35 | 24 | 31.77 |
| 28 | Fifty-fourth | 354 | — | 29 | 35.29.04 |
| 29 | Twenty-seventh | 151 | — | 35 | 28.18 |
| 30 | Sixth Sep. Co., 31st Brigade | 22 | — | 8 | 25.14 |
| 31 | First " 32d " | 57 | — | 5 | 22.62 |
| 32 | Fifth " 31st " | 61 | — | 5 | 22.62 |
| 33 | Second " 31st " | 65 | — | 5 | 19.62 |
| 34 | First " 7th " | 84 | — | 5 | 17.70 |
| 35 | Fifty-first | 64 | — | 15 | — |
| 36 | Sixth Sep. Co., 10th Brigade | 22 | — | 10 | — |
| 37 | Tenth | — | — | 8 | — |
| 38 | First Sep. Co., 4th Division | 46 | — | 6 | — |
| 39 | 1st Troop, 6th Division | 40 | — | 19 | 153.08 |
| 40 | Washington Greys | 50 | — | 22 | 141.58 |
| 41 | Gatling Battery | 50 | — | 21 | 132.90 |
| 42 | 2d Sep. Troop, 5th Brigade | 96 | — | 56 | 27.56.53 |
| 43 | " " 24th " | 62 | — | 13 | 55.97 |
| 44 | " " 1st Division | 78 | — | 15 | 51.57 |
| 45 | " " 11th Brigade | 69 | — | 13 | 51.05 |
| 46 | Third Cavalry | 630 | — | 64 | 49.60 |
| 47 | 9th Troop, 32d Brigade | 31 | — | 6 | 39.05 |
| 48 | Battery A, 8th Division | 135 | — | 7 | 23.90 |
| 49 | 11th Sep. Troop, 8th Division | 107 | — | 4 | 20.51 |
| 50 | Batt. Artillery, 7th Division | 78 | — | 3 | — |

* No further qualifications.

In arranging for the practice of the 1st and 2d Divisions at Creedmoor, the days available during the season were divided proportionately between each division, and it was

left to brigade commanders to decide whether they would order their commands to practice by detachments from each regiment, or by single regiments, the scorers in the latter case being detailed from the other regiments of the brigade. The former plan was adopted by the 1st Brigade, who followed the method pursued last year, the third class being sent in detachments of three companies from each regiment, and the second class by wings, each detachment being commanded by a brigade officer of the day, and the practice, transportation and issue of ammunition being under the direction of the brigade inspector of rifle practice. The plan of sending each regiment by itself was adopted by the 2d, 3d, 5th and 11th Brigades. The advantage of the former system is that the small detachments permit the various regimental inspectors of rifle practice a greater opportunity for supervision and instruction than if the number were greater. The control exercised by the brigade officers insures a uniformity of discipline and practice which it is important to maintain, and each regiment of the brigade is placed upon an equal footing in respect to the weather. Its disadvantage is that the regimental *esprit de corps* is interfered with, reducing the attendance of both officers and men and the interest taken by them. Upon the whole he is of the opinion that the practice by regiments is preferable to that by detachments.

The necessity of one regiment supplying scorers for another, which is necessary to secure reliable scoring, has been found to be a severe tax upon the various organizations when they were sent to Creedmoor separately, and has been formally protested against by Col. Clark, of the 7th. I would, therefore, recommend that hereafter a corps of paid scorers should be employed to act during the practice at Creedmoor. This would remove all question in regard to the scoring, ensure the reports being promptly and correctly made, and avoid the mistakes and loss of time which frequently happens where the scorers are inexperienced. He also recommends that some cheap shelter should be provided for the scorers at Creedmoor. At present the shooting has to be stopped from the scoring blanks becoming wet, when it might otherwise proceed. Many of the scores are rendered illegible for want of such a protection. Col. Wingate also strongly recommends the establishment of a camp, say for three days, by each brigade of the 1st and 2d Divisions, and says no more practical or beneficial system of instruction, for both officers and men, could be devised than for a regiment of the 1st or 2d Division to march to Creedmoor (twelve miles), pitch a camp, be drilled for two days in camp guard duty and rifle practice, break camp and march back.

After tabulating the result of the several National Guard Matches of the Fall Meeting of the National Rifle Association, the Inter-State Match, and the contest for the Nevada Badge, the Colonel closes with: During all the practice of the National Guard at Creedmoor, and throughout the State, I know of no serious accident. The changes in the form of the butts introduced last year have prevented the injuries to the marksmen from the "splash" of the bullets, which formerly were apt to follow from firing on a wrong target, and which threatened to become a serious drawback to the use of iron targets. In spite of all drawbacks the interest taken was never greater and the prospects for future improvement never more promising.

FIRST NEW YORK DIVISION.—The following appointments and promotion on the staff of the major-general commanding are announced to take effect from December 26, 1877: Maj. Chas. A. Post, A. D. C., to be ordnance officer with the rank of lieutenant-colonel; Capt. John H. Iselin, A. D. C., to be aide-de-camp with the rank of major; William De Lancey Boughton (formerly A. D. C., U. S. Vols.) to be aide-de-camp with the rank of captain.

SIXTH NEW YORK DIVISION.—Maj.-Gen. Daniel P. Wood in General Orders directs the carrying out of the recent disbandment and consolidation order of the Adjutant-General. Col. Jay E. Storke, commanding the 49th regiment, has been directed to assume command of the 10th Brigade, pending the election of a brigadier-general.

MUZZLE V. BREACH-LOADERS.—Mr. John Bigby, the manufacturer of the Rigby match rifle, in a communication to the *Volunteer Service Gazette*, offers to arrange a match for rapidity and accuracy between his rifle and any American breach-loader. The contest to be at 1,000 yards, two muzzle-loaders against two breach-loaders, the latter to clear at their discretion. The prize to be awarded to the squad making the best score in a given time. The Sharps Rifle Company have accepted the challenge, and the match will, no doubt, be shot early in the spring.

MASSACHUSETTS.—The following commissions, appointments and discharges have been announced from the Adjutant-General's Department:

Full Commissions.—1st Batt. of Inf., Co. A—First Lieut., Freeman A. Taber, of Boston, October 18.

Appointment.—1st Batt. of Inf.—First Lieut. and Adj., John A. L. well, of Boston, December 19.

Resigned and Discharged.—3d Batt. of Inf., Co. H—First Lieut., Martin J. Hunting, of Plymouth, Dec. 20. 5th regiment, Co. G—Second Lieut., James F. Leslie, of Woburn, December 17.

RHODE ISLAND.—At Providence, Tuesday, December 18, the Wolf Tons Guards, Co. A, Capt. Wm. McPherson, twenty-nine men, and the Meagher Guards, Co. F, thirty-six men, of the 5th Battalion Infantry, were inspected at their armories by Gen. C. R. Dennis, inspecting officer of the State, assisted by Maj. F. S. Arnold, of his staff. The inspections were, as usual, gone through with, to the minutest detail, and were highly creditable to both companies. The Wolf Tons having been inspected, a short drill was had, the movements being generally well executed, particularly the manual, with a few exceptions at support and right shoulder arms, where the pieces were not all carried perpendicularly. The marching in column of fours was really fine, the men starting off at the command "march" with a precision and length of step which showed at once a good setting up and a correct knowledge of how to start off at the proper time and in the proper way. This is a movement that nine-tenths of our militia organizations would do well to look into and perfect themselves in. In the regular service the recruit is thoroughly drilled in his facing and marching before a gun is put into his hands, and there is no reason why the same rule should not be followed by independent organizations, to their credit and efficiency. The difficulty seems to be in the ardency of the recruit to become at once "a whole soldier." At the conclusion of the drill Gen. Dennis and Maj. Arnold both made very complimentary speeches, after which they retired and proceeded to the armory of the Meagher Guards, which were found ready for inspection. At its conclusion Gen. Dennis and Miller addressed the company in a few happy and well timed remarks. The drill which followed was exceptionally good, and, but for one thing, might, as a whole, be pronounced above criticism. We refer to the pernicious and unsoldierly habit of talking in the ranks, which should be looked to and nipped in the bud, or it is likely to become contagious. There is fine material in this company—officers and men—and some of the champion companies had better look to their laurels.

ALABAMA.—Died, suddenly, on the 6th of December, 1877, John C. Doherty, a native of the County of Donegal, Ireland, aged 45 years. Such was the announcement made to the members of the Lee Association at their meeting Dec. 13. But what does it convey? The loss to them of a true comrade and a warm friend, one who shared with them the dangers of the battle field, the fun of the camp, and the pleasures of home. Time which defaces most objects had not destroyed the brotherly love in the hearts of the remnants of the one hundred and thirteen men, who, as the "Emerald Guard," left Mobile for the seat of war on June 3, 1861, and the sorrow of the survivors was expressed in the following resolution: "Our late brother, John C. Doherty, was one of that noble band, and, during four years, struggled, suffered and bled with them. He exhibited the highest qualities of a true soldier, and none surpassed him in bravery, obedience to orders, and faithfulness to the performance of his duties. His conduct during that struggle ought to be enough to render his memory dear to us, and to those whose rights he defended so well. But his career in civil life entitles him to the special love of the members of this association. Brave as a lion but mild as a lamb, modest and unpretentious, satisfied always with a humble position, although he was endowed with qualities of mind worthy of a lofty station, a gentleman in manners and feelings, good and devoted to his family, polite and courteous to all men, his great heart was overflowing with kindness and charity."

—Capt. G. A. Fuller, of the Old Guard, who sailed December 22 by the steamer *Charlotte* for a trip to South Carolina and Georgia, has been specially authorized by the Old Guard to invite Governor Wade Hampton and staff, and also the Washington Light Infantry, of Charleston, and the Clinch Rifles, of Savannah, to the annual ball of the Guard, to be held on January 24 next at the Academy of Music. The 9th and 23d regiment staffs, N. G. S. N. Y., have already engaged boxes for the occasion, and the sale of tickets is said to be largely in excess of what it was at the same time preceding last year's ball.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The editor of the ARMY AND NAVY JOURNAL must decline to decide points between officers and the men of their commands. No attention paid to fictitious signatures, unless accompanied by real name and address of writer.

MAJOR, New York city, asks: A battalion in march, should the commanding officer announce the command "battalion" prior to command "halt" to bring it to a halt? I hold the command "battalion" should be announced. **ANSWER.**—You are correct.

J. W. B. Galveston, Texas, inquires: A regiment is in action, the colonel is killed, the lieutenant-colonel and major are still at their post, has the brigadier-general commanding the right to detail one of his aids of equal or inferior rank to command said regiment? Can an aide-de-camp be placed in command of troops where there is an officer of the line already in command? Can an aide-de-camp with the rank of captain under any circumstances be placed over a line officer of superior or equal rank?

ANSWER.—The Regulations U. S. Army, par. 14, Article II., says: "Officers of the corps of engineers or ordnance, or of the adjutant-general's, inspector-general's, quartermaster-general's or subsistence department, though eligible to command according to the rank they hold in the Army of the U. S., shall not assume the command of troops unless put on duty under orders which specially so direct by authority of the President. An aide-de-camp may be an officer of the line, and as such can be assigned to command by the general, his grade and rank being taken into consideration, the fact, however, being at once reported to higher authority."

The officers of the Army, stationed at Fort Hamilton, N. Y. H., give a series of receptions and hops on the second and fourth Fr. days of December, January and February afternoons and evenings alternately. For the receptions, the Government steamer *Henry Smith* will leave the Battery, New York city, at 1 o'clock P. M. touching at Governor's Island and Fort Wadsworth. Returning will leave Fort Hamilton at 5 o'clock P. M. For the hops, will leave same place at 7 o'clock P. M. touching as before. Returning will leave Fort Hamilton at midnight.

The Blooming Grove Park Association give a reception to Mr. Fayette S. Giles, at the Hoffman House, New York, on Tuesday, January 8, 1878. The Association as well as the public are greatly indebted to Mr. Giles for his efforts in behalf of this attempt to encourage the taste for field sports.

The Democratic Jackson Association of Washington, has made arrangements for the celebration of the anniversary of the battle of New Orleans. Representative Stephens, of Georgia; Senator Voorhees, of Indiana, and Senator Jones, of Florida, have consented to speak on the occasion, if time and opportunity shall permit.

ARMS FOR TURKEY.—In the United States Circuit Court recently, before Judge Shipman, the case of Christopher Oscanyan vs. the Winchester Repeating Arms Company was brought to a close by a verdict for the defendants. The plaintiff was an Armenian Turk by birth, but a Christian by faith, and the action was brought to recover a percentage as commission, which the plaintiff claimed was due to him on \$1,136,000 worth of arms sold by the defendants to the Turkish government. Some objection was made to the Winchester arm by Rustum Bey, the Turkish agent, which the plaintiff undertook to have overcome on condition that he was paid ten per cent. commission on the sales. This was agreed to by the defendants, and then a further difficulty arose by an offer on the part of the United States Government to sell Rustum Bey a number of Spencer rifles. This difficulty the plaintiff was successful in overcoming, and the negotiation for the purchase of the Winchester muskets went on, resulting in the sale on November 9, 1870, of 15,000 Winchester repeating muskets and 5,000 carbines of the value of \$520,000 and on August 19, 1871, 30,000 muskets for \$840,000, making a total of \$1,136,000. The point was raised early in the case that the plaintiff was a public officer, and that therefore his duty was to act in good

faith toward the Government he represented, and that this contract entered into on their behalf, and from which he was to receive a pecuniary benefit, was void, ab initio, in consequence thereof. Judge Shipman said that that principle had always been recognized in the Courts of this country, and directed a verdict for the defendants.

THE SHIELDED GUN.

CONSIDERABLE interest has lately been excited in Europe by the experiments of Herr Krupp on a gun pivoted at the muzzle into a solid iron shield which absorbs its recoil. The actual test of this gun is described in English military papers, as taking place at Bredlar, Prussia, before a congress of fifty-five officers from various countries invited to witness the experiments. From these accounts we find that the apparatus employed is very simple. Iron plates about half a metre thick are put together so as to form a little hut, large enough to hold gun and gunners. Roof and sides are protected by an outer covering of earth; the back is partly open, the front perforated by a hole for the muzzle, closed by a revolving valve. This valve being turned back by machinery at the moment of firing, the next instant reverts into its former position, shielding the interior of the metal apartment as before. There is also a ventilator to carry off the smoke, with a variety of minor arrangements, which, useful in themselves, are yet not indispensable. Thus much for guarding gun and gunners. As to fixing the barrel, this is effected by connecting it with the front plate of the iron hut. A ball screwed to the muzzle and moving in a socket attached to the wall of the metallic compartment is stated to answer this purpose admirably. The rebound is allowed for by the elongating capacity of the socket; the direction is maintained by the firmness of the connecting links.

The party found the iron compartment placed at the end of a little valley, surrounded by a range of hills of a moderate height. The gun was safely lodged in the protecting shed, the inventor, with a number of practised hands, being ready to put his new device to the proof. When the officers had taken up their several positions, the gun was pointed at a target placed opposite and fired repeatedly. Though the gun was a big 15 centimetre cannon, and the target only five metres square, the mechanism, slightly aided by the gunners' skill, sufficed to keep the barrel in the original direction. A trifling movement of the hand raised or depressed the barrel at will, the connecting hinges and links being so constructed as to allow of this variation. Neither solid grenade nor shrapnel case had any disturbing influence upon the barrel; and the hinges, being made of the best material and ingeniously attached to each other, were neither strained nor torn by the rebound. The firing was at a distance of 540 metres.

The power of maintaining its original direction having thus been proved, the protecting capacity of the iron compartment was the next thing to be tested. For this purpose the iron shed was fired at from a 15 centimetre gun, placed at a distance of 320 metres, and from a 12 centimetre gun, at a distance of 250 metres. Half a dozen grenades having produced no impression upon the iron shed, notwithstanding the comparative proximity of the discharge, the examining party were encouraged to enter the interior during the remaining portion of the programme. They thus had an opportunity of convincing themselves that the iron shell of the protecting hut was but slightly shaken by the concussion of the exploding *obus*. Eventually the steel valve, let down during this part of the proceedings, was hit and injured. It was instantaneously replaced by one of wrought iron, which stood the severest shocks.

Then began the third and concluding part of the programme—an engagement between the cannon in the shed and the two guns outside, at respectively 320 and 250 metres distance. The shed fired at the targets, the cannon outside at the shed. The valve on this occasion worked admirably, opening and closing with the greatest rapidity and precision. Though the iron shed was hit repeatedly, the 20 officers inside at the time agree in saying that the concussion was hardly more than what would be produced by the stroke of a hammer welded by a vigorous hand. This statement is the more satisfactory, a cannonade at 350 metres having become quite impossible, at a period when the gunners are liable to be picked off at 1,000 metres by the breech-loaders of the infantry.

The same experiments were gone through on the second day, after which the iron plates of the shed were subjected to a close inspection. The severest injury inflicted was that by a pointed grenade, which had penetrated 14 centimetres into the cuirass. As the latter was about 50 centimetres thick, it is easy to suppose that the inner side of the plates was untouched, even by this obtrusive missile. One of the last few shots fired from the guns outside, just at the moment of the valve being open, hit the muzzle and broke the socket and connecting links. If this proves, what, indeed needs no proof, that bullets cannot be completely kept from entering where bullets are expected to go out, still the gunners were safe even at this critical spot, none of the fragments penetrating within the shed.

Altogether, the experiments gave the greatest satisfaction. The confidence displayed by inventor and assistants remaining in the shed exposed to the fire of two 15 centimetre guns was speedily shared by the spectators, who vied with each other in imitating their example. In Germany, it would appear, no time will be lost in turning the new device to account. Strasbourg and Metz, Posen, and Königsberg, the four great strongholds protecting the eastern and western confines of the empire, are likely to be the first supplied. Nor is it altogether improbable that the German arsenals will be provided with blocks for field service. *Panser Kanone* is the name given by Herr Krupp to his iron-shedded cannon.

THE RUSSIANS AT PLEVNA.

THE Chicago *Inter-Ocean* has a two column telegraph despatch reporting an interview held with 1st Lieut. and Brevet Lieut. Col. Edmund Rice, 5th Infantry, who recently arrived in New York from a tour of observation in Bulgaria. With the exception of Lieut. Green, Col. Rice is the only American officer who penetrated as far as Plevna, and he has had excellent opportunities of studying the manner in which the siege of that place was conducted, and of forming an opinion as to the relative merits of the two belligerent armies. He was in Bucharest when the news came of the Roumanians making their great assault from the Gravitza redoubt. Thinking a lively time was imminent, he at once crossed the Danube and pushed on to Bagot, the headquarters of the Imperial staff. The colonel was well received by the Grand Duke, who granted him permission to visit all positions round Plevna, and gave directions to all officers to afford him every facility for gaining information.

Plevna was completely surrounded, but considering the time the Russians had spent in front of the place, and the large number of men at their disposal, the works they had constructed were by no means a credit to them. Instead of having solid detached forts connected by good rifle pits commanded by the forts, they had disconnected mounds of earth on which were a few guns, and which they dignified by the name of redoubts. The manner in which they conducted the siege was a great mistake, and showed a painful neglect of the ordinary precautions of warfare. A regiment would be sent into the trenches for a few days, with no instructions to the men to improve the works, and knowing that they would probably not visit the same trenches after they were relieved, the soldiers were quite indifferent as to their protective qualities, and careless as to sanitary matters. Behind the men in the works a strong reserve was kept doing nothing when they might have been profitably employed in strengthening the intrenchments.

The generals employed around Plevna acted without life or energy. The exceptions were Skobeloff and Gourko, who are excellent officers and brave soldiers, and were always on the lookout for weak points in the enemy's armor. The older Russian officers are not conversant with modern tactics, but the younger, who have joined the service since the American war, are an intelligent and competent class of men. The officers are few in proportion to the number of men. As many as 1,000 soldiers have been sent in to intrench, and with only a non-commissioned officer in charge; and the colonel has seen 3,000 prisoners in care of a sergeant and a handful of troops.

The Russian officers have one fault, and a grievous one in common. They don't look after their commands and see that they are comfortable in camp, with a view to diminishing the sick list, nor do they see that the troops are properly protected from the fire of the enemy when going into action. There were no wounded Russian soldiers in Plevna when he left, whereas, prisoners taken by the Russians could be counted by the thousand. A feeling prevailed in the Russian ranks which nerved the men to desperate deeds, that if wounded on the field and they fell into the hands of the enemy nothing but a horrible death awaited them. The Russians are not given to exaggeration, and from the stories that he had heard, the colonel had profound conviction that everything said of the Turks in this respect was worthy of credence. He conversed with the English doctors, Messrs. Douglas and Vachell, who were taken prisoners at Teliche, and the stories they related of the atrocities committed by the Turks were of the most blood-curdling character. So strongly did the barbarous practices of the Ottoman troops work upon the English chief of the medical staff to which Douglas and Vachell were attached, that he left Teliche in disgust the day before its capture.

The medical service of the Russian army is excellent so far as it goes, but there are too few surgeons for the work to be performed. In the Crimea there was one surgeon to every fifty-nine men, in the Franco-Prussian war one to every thirty-three. The Russians have only one to seventy-five men. The ambulances were too heavy and liable to upset, and were not half as convenient and comfortable as the American ambulances.

The army transportation service is very good, and the army is kept well supplied. Everything is brought up by contract, some of the contractors having as many as 600 wagons employed. There are continuous streams of wagons crossing and recrossing the bridges at Sistova, one or two Cossacks accompanying them as escorts. The colonel thought the Russians were determined to fight all winter, if necessary. They have abundance of supplies. When he left Plevna they had enough to last them several months without bringing in another biscuit across the Danube.

Col. Rice considers the small arms of the Russians the worst, probably, in Europe, but their artillery is excellent, being chiefly bronze twelve pounder breech-loaders. But there is one defect in this branch, the limber chests are not interchangeable with the chest on the caissons, as they are in most modern armies. Neither are the wheels of one size. The trails of the

pieces, however, are excellent, being of wrought iron, which is more desirable than wood.

The Turkish horses are very poor, and peculiarly and not wisely shod. The shoe is merely a round iron, with a hollow in the centre, which makes it impossible for the animal to travel in muddy weather. The Russian horses, on the other hand, are well shod and in good condition, and there is no scarcity of them.

BILLS BEFORE CONGRESS.

- S. 351. Authorizes restoration of Geo. A. Armes to lineal list of captains cavalry without prejudice because of dismissal.
- S. 352. Gives 1st Lieut. Geo. McDermott, 5th Infantry, pay of 2d Lieut. from Jan. 5, 1862, to July 17, 1862.
- S. 354. Provides that officers of the Navy who have been heretofore, or are hereafter, retired after forty or more years of consecutive and faithful service, and promoted to the grade of rear-admiral on the retired list, shall receive the retired pay of that grade from the date of such retirement, all acts or parts of acts to the contrary notwithstanding.
- S. 355. Gives Henry H. Meade, late P. M. U. S. N., \$2545.22 for losses and checkings.
- S. 356. Reinstates Wm. L. Foulk, late captain 10th Cavalry, to the grade and rank held by him Jan. 4, 1874.
- S. 379. Extends time for presenting claims for collecting, drilling, or organizing volunteers for the war of the rebellion, to June 30, 1878.
- S. 387. Dates promotion of Colonels Langdon C. Easton and Stewart Van Vleet, A. Q. M. Generals; Lieut.-Colonels Asher R. Eddy, Rufus Saxton, Judson D. Bingham, Alexander J. Perry, and Henry C. Hodges, D. Q. M. Generals, from July 29, 1866; *Provided*, That no officer in said department shall, by this act, be reduced from his present rank, nor shall any additional pay or allowance be made to any officers by virtue of this act.
- S. 408. Restores Chas. Brewster, late 1st Lieut. and brevet captain U. S. A., to the rank he would have attained had he continued in the Service, to be assigned to the first vacancy.
- S. 414. Appropriates \$300,000 for military posts on the Rio Grande.
- S. 420. Gives Major P. P. G. Hall, P. M., U. S. A., \$3,141.34 lost by criminal acts of his clerk in 1868-9.
- S. 430. Authorizes appointment of A. P. A. Surgeon Francis V. Greene, U. S. N., A. Surgeon, without prejudice to the promotion of senior passed A. Surgeon.

GUNS TO BE TESTED AT NUT ISLAND.—The first ten of a number of the altered Rodman guns that have been converted from 10-inch smooth bores to 8 inch rifles by the South Boston Iron Foundry Company, will be tested on Nut Island, Quincy Bay, during the present week. The trial will commence to-day, December 18. Ten charges of thirty-five pounds of powder and projectile weighing 175 pounds will be fired from every gun. At first five charges will be fired, and if the gun stands the test, the other five shots will be discharged. The projectiles will be fired into a sand bank and will be dug out and used again. The power of resistance of the guns will also be tested. They are required to bear about 25,000 pounds to the square inch. This is an important trial, as it is to demonstrate whether or not the great number of smooth-bore Rodmans which belong to the Government are worth being altered. The great 12-inch rifle which was cast last spring is being rapidly finished, and in a few days will be ready for the ordnance officers of the Government to test. The gun will be taken to the trial grounds in New Jersey.—*Boston Globe*.

THE NEVADA BANK.—The officers of the Army stationed in San Francisco and its vicinity have united in the following testimonial to officers of the Nevada Bank for the generous treatment received from them: "To the officers, directors and stockholders of the Nevada Bank of San Francisco, the respectful acknowledgments of the undersigned are presented, inasmuch as the bank assumed the responsibility of meeting the pay of Army officers serving in this vicinity, without discount or interest, during the period for which there was no appropriation, to wit: the months of July, August, September, and October, 1877, the single motive of this action being to supply gratis to the extent which had just been named an abnormal deficiency of one of the necessities of the National Government."

In alluding to the unfounded rumor of Baker Pasha being killed at the fight at Orkhanie, a London *Times* correspondent writes:—"In every engagement Baker Pasha freely risked his life, feeling bound as an Englishman among foreigners to set a conspicuous example of courage. His aide-de-camp told me that sometimes they thought themselves riding to certain death. His loss here is greatly regretted by Turks, as well as Englishmen."

THE Parachute Light, introduced into the British military service as a means of revealing the enemy's position and movements at night, is to be superseded by the newest description of star shell. The star shell is much smaller and more portable, and of comparatively trifling cost. It can be fired into the air from a mortar at the required angle to show the enemy's works, and burns with a brilliant light for half a minute or less, long enough to take an observation and lay a gun, but not long enough to allow an adverse wind to bring the light back over the firing point, and so turn the advantage in favor of the enemy.

A FRENCH explorer, Lieutenant Semelle, has obtained funds, the sanction of the French Government, and the approval of the French Geographical Society, to emulate Stanley by crossing Africa from west to east. His purpose is to ascend the Niger to its confluence with the Benue, and ascend the latter to its source. Thence proceeding eastwards, he expects to come upon the Shari, which he purposes thoroughly to explore, and then make, if possible, for Lakes Albert and Victoria. He hopes to come out on the east coast either at Mombassa or Melinda, passing by the snowy height of Mount Kenia, which Dr. Hildebrandt has been unable to reach. Lieutenant Semelle will be accompanied by an escort of Algerian tirailleurs, and is expected to start on January 15.

FOREIGN ITEMS.

DR. SORMINI, an Italian, has made a careful study of the annual mortality of different armies, with the following result: Prussia, 1872, 6.4 per cent.; England, 1871, 8.4 per cent.; France, 1872-74, 8.7 per cent.; Belgium, 1870-74, 10 per cent.; Russia, 1871-74, 14.7 per cent.; Austria, 1870-73, 15.3 per cent.; Italy, 1870-76, 11.6 per cent. The mortality in the British army was largely reduced by the efforts of Lord (Sydney) Herbert when Secretary of War, to whom was due the sanitary improvements in barracks.

THE Royal Horse Artillery band, for many years part of the Woolwich establishment, is to be broken up. It has been maintained at the entire cost of the officers belonging to the Royal Horse Brigades of Artillery, who have also to bear their part in supporting the other regimental bands, which are merely assisted by a Government allowance. In future the Royal Regiment of Artillery at Woolwich will have two bands only instead of three. A number of the horse artillery musicians will be drafted into the brass band, the surplus members of both bands returning to military duty with the Coast Brigade, and the whole of the brass band is to be mounted.

EXPERIMENTS are being carried on in Prussia, by order of the German military authorities, to determine how far it may be practicable to employ the telephone for military purposes. One of the new instruments has been arranged by the railway regiment on the exercising ground near Berlin; but, as yet, the results obtained have not been altogether satisfactory. With the stations only a few thousand paces apart it is found extremely difficult, and at times when the conditions are unfavorable altogether impossible to carry on a conversation. It is expected, however, that when some suggested improvements in the apparatus have been carried out, the telephone will work in a much more satisfactory manner, and will become of great value for many military purposes.

At the annual meeting of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company, held at London, the company's fleet of forty-five sea-going ships, besides subsidiary vessels, with an aggregate tonnage, of 117,478 tons and 20,015 horse-power, was reported to be in high state of efficiency, and that its working for the year had been marked by an entire immunity from maritime casualty or disaster. This working represents upwards of 1,700,000 miles of ocean space traversed during the year, and nearly 17,000 passengers have been carried without mishaps or loss of life, and upwards of 300,000 tons of freight have been safely conveyed to their destination. Apart from this, the most extended postal service the world has yet known—a service on which the sun never sets, extending, as it does, from England to the furthest East, to India, China, Japan, and Australia, has been conducted with perfect punctuality, to the satisfaction of the Post Office and the public.

EXPERIMENTS have, it is well known, been lately made in the foundry at Spandau with bronze steel, prepared by the Uchatius method, and these have been so successful that, according to the Berlin correspondent of an Austrian military paper, the inspection-general of the German artillery has definitely decided to adopt it as a material, for the manufacture of ordnance, and, in the first instance, has ordered several siege guns to be made of the new compound. The guns which are to be thus manufactured are to have a calibre of 12 centimetres, but will be superior to the Austrian pieces with the same bore, as arrangements will be made to allow a larger charge of powder to be used. In well informed circles, the correspondent adds, the construction of these guns is looked upon as the first step toward the complete substitution of bronze steel for steel ordnance in the German army. Meanwhile, exceedingly satisfactory experiments have been made on the range at Steinfeld, near Vienna, with two recently constructed 15-centimetre bronze steel guns. The Austrian Minister of War, the President of the Technical Committee, Gen. Uchatius, and a large number of artillery officers were present on the occasion, and excellent practice was made with the new weapons at the 2,000 metre range.

THE Russian Journal of Artillery states that an Austrian manufacturer has recently arrived at St. Petersburg, and has offered to sell to the Russian government the secret of the fabrication of a new explosive. This substance, which is called "heracline," is, the inventor asserts, far superior to either ordinary gunpowder or dynamite for blasting and mining purposes, and, when prepared in a special manner, may also be employed with advantage as a bursting charge for shells. Used as a charge for mines, the new explosive is said to act with a much greater energy, and produce a much greater effect, than the same quantity of powder; and, as both its density and cost of manufacture are considerably less, a saving of from 40 to 45 per cent. will be effected by employing it. It is also the least dangerous of any explosive, as it cannot be exploded either by a blow or by friction, but only by bringing a flame into contact with it in a closed vessel. It may, therefore, be ignited either by electricity or by Bickford's fuse; but the detonating fuse required to explode dynamite with effect is not wanted. Compared with this latter substance, heracline can be prepared at one-third the cost, and the effect produced by equal quantities of the two compounds is said to be very nearly the same. The actual cost of preparing the heracline in Austria, where the inventor has already manufactured and patented it, is given at 30 florins per 100 pounds, and the patentee now offers to make a sufficient quantity for the Russian government to carry out a series of experiments, finding the necessary substances himself, if the Russian authorities will place one of its powder mills at his disposal. For the present the proposal has been declined, but 250 kilogrammes of the explosive have been ordered to enable

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